Time like an ever rolling stream...

Happy New Year to all!

Glad Tidings

January/February 2004

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Cover Photo: Mystical Bird Clock by Sue Careless

Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Guest Editorial: Rejected by my cat

by Esther Barnes, Editor, Link & Visitor*

I used to thank God every night for little Heidi, as she lay on my shoulder and purred me to sleep. Now I'm wondering what spiritual lessons God wants to teach me through the fickleness of cats.

Heidi was born in a dumpster, but for most of her eight years she lived contentedly indoors. She escaped for three brief vacations, but always returned. So when she scooted out of my house the night before I moved, I hoped she just had another vacation in mind. My dog Maggie and I moved to an apartment two kilometers away, and I began daily treks back to the house for Heidi. On the second day she came to me; I grabbed her and carried her into the house. Big mistake. When I turned to close the door, she bolted. That was almost the last I saw of her. I called and called. I told Maggie to find the kitty. But Heidi lived up to her name. She hid in a neighbour's garage that was so full of junk I had no hope of catching her.

After two weeks, I gave up. I arranged for my old neighbours to feed her, and for the new owners of the house to adopt her if she'd let them. That day I saw her for the first time in ten days. I slowly approached her. She looked at me, considered her options, and slipped under the deck. I have seldom felt so rejected.

What might God be teaching me through this?

1. He cares for me more than I care for Heidi. When I realized I might be catless, I was relieved that I wouldn't have to worry about where to put Heidi's litter box. And I don't think I'm ready to forgive her for the stress she has caused me. Yet God is always ready to forgive; he offers prodigals the hospitality of his heart.

2. I should trust God with the changes in my life. When Heidi saw signs of impending change in the house, she didn't trust me to give her a new home where she would be happy and safe.

3. God does not want us to become too attached to a place. That's the probem with cats, I've been told. And sometimes we, too, become so attached to a familiar, comfortable place (literal or figurative) that we are reluctant to follow Christ into new places of service and witness.

4. God draws us by love, not force. When I called Heidi, I hoped she would hear how much I longed to have her with me. I tried coaxing her with her teaser and food; I tried luring her with the sound of a can opener. I did not try to trap her, or drive her out from under the deck with a hose. I wanted her to come willingly, drawn by the good things I had given her, just as God wants us to come to him.

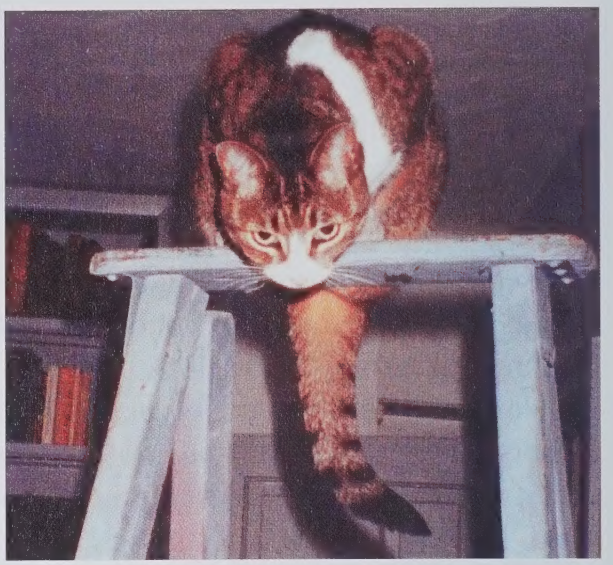
My neighbour called today with a progress report. Heidi now comes out of hiding when he shakes her food. She lets him scratch her chin. He thinks he'll be able to catch her and return her to me. But I don't know if she'll ever purr on my shoulder again. Perhaps

she'd rather be wild than live by my rules. And that's a lesson, too.

***A Baptist Magazine for Women, July/August 2003. Reprinted with permission**

Update on Heidi:

Heidi lived happily in my neighbour's garage for almost three months. But her chosen lifestyle ruined her health. She became so weak and dehydrated that one morning she allowed the neighbour to pick her up, put her in a cat carrier, and take her to the vet. Two hundred dollars later, I carried her home. She complained loudly all the way. For the first few weeks I wasn't sure if she liked me or her new home. Now she spends her days sleeping on the radiator cover in my home office. She shows no interest in going outside. And every night, as soon as she hears the rustle of my duvet, she hops on my bed, lies on my shoulder, and purrs. Esther



Heidi being difficult.

A Thought for the New Year...

Errors

I unrolled a spool of correction tape from my word processor today. It was amazing how many errors I'd made, and I immediately thought of all the errors I'd made during my lifetime too.

I'm still making them at times. If only I could unravel all the human errors as easily as I did that tape . . . what a difference it would make.

As I threw the tape away, I decided to put all of my errors behind me, and try to forget them, and to look to a future of better judgment and clear thinking.

Perhaps I learned a lesson today from all those tape errors. I hope so.

Gladys Nolan

DO YOU NEED A WILL?

by Helen Miller

I don't need a will. Sadie and I have everything in joint ownership," George told his friend Jerry. Jerry and Fran had been telling George and Sadie what they had learned at their church about wills the night before.

"Let me tell you what happened to a couple I know," Jerry said, "You remember about that small plane crash in Northern Ontario last year? Well, Frank and Jane were on it, and they were both killed. They left three young children, and they had no will. No guardians appointed to care for their children; no one to take responsibility for them; no one to see that there were funds for their education; no one to handle all Frank's investments. Frank's brother and his lawyers are still working on this case, and the poor kids are being passed back and forth between the relatives."

"Really? Can it get that bad?" asked Sadie.

"Maybe we should see about getting a will. Maybe you should tell us what you know about making a will, Jerry."

"Okay, but let us talk a little more about what happens when a person doesn't have one," Jerry said.

"Dying without a will causes hardship, delay and worry to the family members, or others with whom the deceased wished to share in his possessions. Taxes will be more. Additional costs are incurred in administering an estate without a will."

"For example, no one is allowed to deal with the estate until an administrator is appointed by the court, and until that takes place, it could produce hardship for the family. An administrator would need to be bonded by an insurance company to ensure he performs his responsibilities accurately. Bonding can be an expensive and cumbersome process. When an executor is appointed in the will, they draw their power from the will and have the authority to act on behalf of the estate from the time of death. No bonding is required."

"Well, we certainly didn't know all this," said George.

"Please tell us more," Sadie added.

"All right," said Jerry while Fran went to the kitchen to prepare coffee for everyone.

"One more thing—if the spouse outlives the deceased, and if there are no children, the entire estate goes to the spouse. If there is a child, or children, the spouse gets a preferential share and one-half of the balance and the rest goes to the child, or is divided among the children. If there are not enough funds to make the payment

to the court, some of the assets would have to be sold, possibly causing hardship for the family."

"I think now we'll talk about the advantages of having a will. First, though, let's discuss the kinds of wills. Most are known as "conventional" wills. A will must be in writing and must be signed by the person making the will. At least two witnesses must be present at the signing; then they must also sign the will.

"These witnesses must not be children, but must be over 18. A spouse of a beneficiary cannot be a witness, nor can a beneficiary be a witness. The will must be dated. Any alteration to the will invalidates it because it would be presumed to have taken place after the will was signed."

"The other kind of will is called a 'holograph' will. This kind is handwritten by the testator and signed by him. Nothing else is required. No other person can sign or write anything on it or it will be invalid. The document must be intended to be a will."

Just then Fran returned with the coffee and a tray of brownies. As she served the coffee, Fran asked Sadie and George, "How do you feel about having a will now?"

"Well, I am beginning to think we should get one. What about you, Sadie?"

"I am convinced we should. Where do we go from here, Jerry?"

"Let me give you the names of the two lawyers who presented this to our church. Choose one of them, call and make an appointment. He will guide you through the process. Their fees are not excessive either.

"After you meet the lawyer and talk things over with him, his secretary will set a date for you to come and sign the will. The lawyer and his secretary signed as our witnesses. When you go home with your two copies of the will, put one in a safe place, and give the other one to the person you have named as executor of your will."

Sadie interrupted with a question, "Who should we have as an executor?"

"Well, I'll tell you what we did," Jerry said. "We decided to have our youngest son be the executor. He's finishing up his PhD and he and his wife live in the same province as we do, at least for the present time. We also gave him power of attorney to make decisions for us, if and when we become unable to do such things ourselves."

"Excuse me for interrupting, Jerry, but what kind of decisions did you say he would make for you?"

"That's a good question, George. A power of attorney acts for you in decision-making when, or if, you are incapable of doing so. For example, a Power of Attorney for Personal Care would make decisions regarding your medical care, and where you would live, or if you need to move to a nursing home.

A "continuing power of attorney" for property is one who acts for you in respect to your property. This person will also write checks for you and pay your bills. You should keep power of attorney documents in a safe place to be used only if you can't make these decisions for yourself. Now, does that answer your question?"

"Yes, thanks, Jerry."

"A few things to look for when you choose an executor: They must be honest and trustworthy; should have good business sense; should be sympathetic to the

needs of your family; and should be able to work well with lawyers, accountants and other professionals. Oh, there is something else. You should appoint both a primary and an alternate executor. This person can be an adult family member, a professional person, or a close friend. It's a good idea to update your will every five years."

George looked at his watch, and said, "Thanks so much, Jerry and Fran. This discussion has been very interesting, and given me a lot to think about, but it is getting late and I have to get an early start in the morning."

Sadie gave Fran a hug as they left, and said, "Thank you for this great talk. I think we'll get to work on making a will."

"Be sure and give us a call if you have any more questions," Jerry said as he opened the door for them.

Groups in the Toronto area who would like a speaker can contact Diane McPherson, a certified financial planner at S.I.M. Phone (416) 497-2424 X150 or Email: dmcphers@sim.ca. Groups in other areas might try local law offices for suggestions for speakers.

A Path of Faith

In times of joy,
We glorify the Lord of life.

In times of success,
We thank God for answering our prayers.

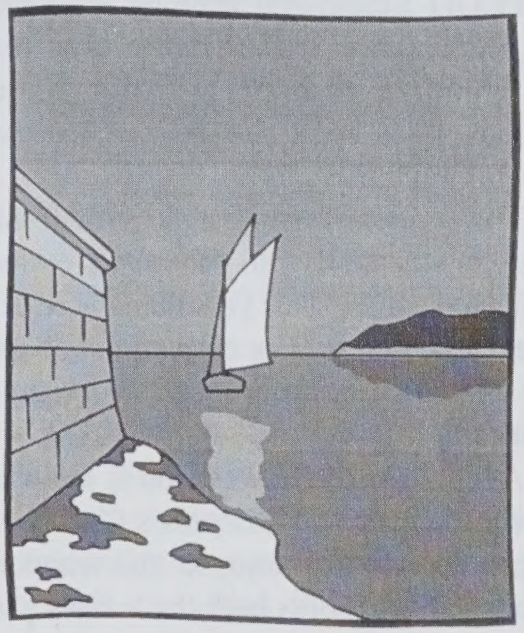
In times of uneasiness,
We place our trust in God.

In times of doubts,
We search for truth in God's words.

In times of confusion,
We ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

In times of loneliness,
We turn to the heart of Jesus.

In times of sorrow,
We are comforted by God's embracing love.



In times of strength in faith,
We thank the Lord for His gift of grace.

Maria Stam

CGIT News:

Still going strong at 89!

This fall over 30 CGIT and Explorer leaders and support volunteers gathered for the 18th annual Ontario CGIT Leadership Training Weekend (see photo above). All shared in good fun and fellowship, renewal of old friendships and new ones begun—nine new leaders were present this year!

The leaders came away with fresh ideas for devotions and programs, crafts, music and games. This year there were excellent in-depth studies of portions of the new United Church resource, "Websight - Connecting Youth for Global Justice."

A highlight of the weekend is the preview presentation of this year's Christmas Vesper Service. All enjoyed this wonderful event that benefits both the leaders and the girls in CGIT in Ontario.

Did you know that CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training) will be 89 years old in 2004 and is still providing training in Christian living to girls 12-17 years of age? Dedicated women (who have had their own lives enriched) lead the girls through singing, sharing, laughing, camping, baking, loving, providing leadership development, helping others, fundraising, learning and discovering more about God and others, making crafts, worshipping, studying real and current issues on health, mind, and soul, sleepovers and lots of other neat stuff, seeking the truth and helping girls become the persons God wants them to be.

WOW! What a program! Volunteers accomplish all this at weekly meetings of an hour and a half from September to May!

With a program like this, you'd think that there must be thousands and thousands of girls participating and a waiting list to join. Unfortunately, *it ain't so!* Girls are too busy; they want to be entertained, they don't want to be responsible for taking a part in the success of the group. Some leaders are distressed over the lack of or no support from their ministers.

Maybe the subtitle for this should be "church alert!" and "parent alert." Ministers and congregations—are there teenage girls actively participating in the life of your church? Why not? The CGIT program is a Christ-centred program and

leaders encourage the girls to go to church, naturally assuming you'd support and encourage too!

Parents—What are your daughters so busy doing? Are they being nurtured and encouraged to live life with a worthwhile, lifelong purpose? One leader is disappointed her group is no longer going, but is not disappointed at not having to work so hard to find something exciting to amuse the girls that doesn't include chatting and eating.

Another group is really thriving because there are children's groups like Messengers and Explorers active within their Church. These eventually lead to CGIT membership.

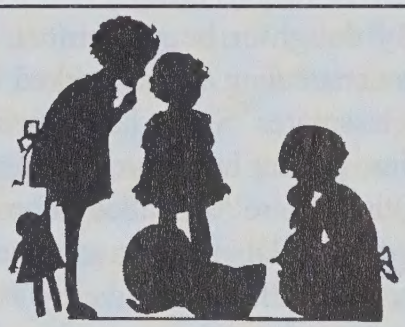
There are CGIT groups across Canada, all having this same fun and fellowship and striving to fulfill the CGIT Purpose, with Christ's help - to cherish health, seek truth, know God, serve others and become the woman God wants each one of them to be. The awesome leaders have a firm belief in this fantastic and marvelous program. Don't you wish more girls were taking advantage of this program?

Hey Congregations and Ministers! Hey Parents! ANYBODY LISTENING?

Submitted by Carolyn Reid, Promotion & Publicity Chair, Ontario CGIT Association.

What is the Real Handicap?

by Nancy Bennett



When I was first attending school, children didn't mix. At least not handicapped and "so called" normal children. Differently-abled children were kept separate from other kids, stared at and had fingers pointed at them as we passed them in the hallways. Different classes, different teachers, different needs—that's all it was really about, but we didn't know that for we weren't allowed to share in each other's world and from this lack of knowing each other came the ignorance which bred school yard bullies.

I like to remember that I was never the one who taunted the kids who were different. But neither was I brave enough to stand up against the bullies' taunts and snickering. Deep down inside I was afraid of being labeled different myself.

When my first child was nearing three we moved to a house beside a very special school. It was called "The Child Development Centre" and it offered an interactive classroom. My daughter was invited to attend and was eager to join in. But as I watched the special buses pulling in I wasn't anxious to send my daughter to meld with this group.

I thought it was specialized, i.e. you had to have a disability or something "wrong" with you to be there. And that

old fear of being different was haunting me as well. I didn't want my daughter to be labeled different.

But the excited cries from the yard and the waves from the children as they set out on yet another adventure—and the fact it was just across the street (in shouting distance in case things went wrong!) compelled me to give it a try. Was I in for a surprise!

Each classroom was set up in friendly warm colours. The ratio of child to teacher was exceptionally low. It wasn't closed off to the parents either. I could watch what went on every day from behind a two-way glass and participate with the class at various times.

My daughter became more helpful and understanding as she worked with her new classmates. Some had physical disabilities. Others had psychological barriers. Others were "so called" normal. But there were no labels given to these special children and all of them were just kids to my daughter.

She marveled at the hearing aid her friend Samantha finally got and how Sam could speak so much better then. She tried to learn to tie shoes and when she became frustrated her new friend Jamie helped out. Jamie had fetal alcohol syndrome and difficulties with his hearing and sight.

But he had struggled to learn to tie last year and was willing to share the secret of lacing up with anyone who asked. Rory could spin wheelies in his chair and Megan read a special language called Braille with her fingers.

Sometimes, my daughter was envious of her new friends. Other times she was angry. When people teased or stared at her classmates she was the one who boldly confronted the bullies as I cringed deep down inside for her.

As I watched my daughter through those years I came to the realization of what I had missed by not being allowed to meet those kids in the other class.

I was the one who had been handicapped by my inability to see people as special individuals. If anyone had special needs it was me, in taking my blinders off. Blinders placed there by my parents and a society who felt and still feel a need to segregate.

My mother still believes that the locating of special needs children in my daughter's school takes away from her getting a fair education. The handicapped kids who are differently-abled get all the attention and my daughter ends up being short changed. I have to disagree with her and the others who think that way.

For being allowed to see people as individuals and not as handicapped, my daughter and I have learned many important lessons: kindness, tolerance and acceptance of all people; seeing people for who they are inside, not what they can or can't do. I have learned to step out from behind the two-way mirror and face my own fears of being labeled different. The unique gifts each one of us brings to this world should never be hidden away.

Being different is no handicap. Being segregated is.

Editor's Note: **We have been criticized at times for taking a pro-Palestinian stance. Perhaps it is because our church has always defended the rights of Palestinian Christians who are often forgotten in the confusion of the middle east equation. Here is an opinion piece from a Jewish perspective. We are all God's children and suffering is suffering no matter to whom or where it happens.**

Our Heroes... and Theirs

by Jonathan Medved

Last night's terror struck close to home. The boom of the blast at Cafe Hillel on Emek Refaim shook the windows of our house and left no doubt that we were hit again this time in our own neighborhood. Our son Yossi was on the phone with his brother Momo, asking when he would be back so they could watch another episode on DVD of 24, the addictive US series about terrorism.

Momo was crossing Emek Refaim, which is two blocks from our house, and they both heard the blast. Momo, 16, a trained Paramedic with Magen David Adom, took out his plastic gloves which he keeps in his school backpack, and began to run the block to the cafe, to help with the injured. Yossi ran out the door with my wife Jane to get Momo.

Momo was one of the first to arrive at the scene. As he described it later, it was a scene straight out of Dante or Eli Wiesel. Victims were screaming and strewn about. A group of bystanders was attempting to put out a fire that was consuming a man. Amputated legs and arms were lying in pools of blood. A man's head was in the middle of the street.

Momo acted according to the training he received this summer, in a course designed to teach him how to handle these kind of events. As soon as the lead ambulance arrived he was told who to evacuate and he helped carry the injured on stretchers. Within ten minutes it was over, and the amazing Israeli emergency medical teams had again acted with alacrity and professionalism. His mother and brother found him covered with victims' blood and walked him home.

I was in the office when the blast hit, and was frantic with worry because I could not find anyone by phone. Finally I got a call from my son Yossi telling me that our family was OK and that we would meet at home.

Getting home and seeing your son's clothes splattered with blood of a terror attack, is a parental experience I will not forget. The relief of seeing him unhurt mixed together with the pain and outrage and grief of an attack so close to home. After Momo showered, we together watched on TV the surreal scenes of our amazing and beautiful neighborhood hit, hurt and bleeding. Momo was curled up with his dog Lucy, hugging her and trying to regain some semblance of normalcy. A sixteen-year-old boy, having done his heroic work and having seen scenes that one should never see, trying to return to what's left of his adolescence.

We watched the scenes of jubilation in Gaza, with thousands of Palestinians taking to the streets in spontaeous celebration, delirious with joy at the "quality" attacks. Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and others

praised the "bravery" of the suicide bombers and shouted their satisfaction. He in particular mentioned the "great" Abu Shnab, the "engineer" of dozens of Israeli deaths whose death was now avenged.

I was struck by the contrast between the two societies. Our heroes were out on Emek Refaim fighting to save lives, to practice emergency medicine, to reduce casualties. Their heroes were sowing death and destruction, their engineering was the science of terror.

This morning as the bright Jerusalem sun came up again over our neighborhood, most of the outward signs of destruction had been washed away and cleaned up. Despite the continued terror alerts and torrent of news about yesterday's attacks, the children need to go to school, to get on with our lives. But the news contained more bitter tidings that took your breath away.

Among the dead in last night's blast was Dr. David Applebaum and his daughter Nava. Nava was due to be married tonight in a joyous wedding of 500 guests. David was a doctor of emergency medicine who was a fixture in Jerusalem's medical scene, having treated hundreds of terror victims. He was the founder of Terem, Jerusalem's private emergency medical clinic, and my best friend's partner. He was a learned man, a kind man, a tzaddik. He was a true hero of Jerusalem.

I am letting Momo "sleep in" this morning. I tried to wake him but he said he needed some more sleep. His teacher from school just called to say that he heard from Momo's friends that he had a "tough night" and was among the first on the terror scene. He suggested that after we attend this morning's funeral for Dr. Applebaum and his daughter that I take him to school, so he can be with his friends and talk about what has happened. My son and his friends, true heroes of Jerusalem.

Los Angeles' native, Jonathan Medved is the founder of Israel Seed Partners, a venture capital fund, and resides with his family in Jerusalem.

Our Thoughts

Our thoughts grow and flow
differently in you and me...
depending on time,
mood, emotions,
and our strength.

Our thoughts depend on light
falling through our windows
the latter's size,
their condition,
or their total absence.

Our thoughts
depend on the hands,
holding and helping or
hurting and harming us.

Our thoughts
influence our dreams
either dismal, daring, or
by their mere absence.

Our thoughts
and dreams shape our life
at large, and those around
and growing with or through us.

Lini Richarda Grol

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone...

And that might sum up the spiritual condition of this nation covered with more than snow and a people often frozen in heart and soul. Elijah made many references to hearts of stone, so cold, so unresponsive, so empty they are seemingly impervious to any amount of love.

Imagery: ice and snow work well in Canada.

Hunger works for much of the world.

"There is evidence of a significant hunger among us, a hunger of the heart and mind. ...It is as if many of us were becoming aware that something is missing from our lives...a yearning for something which could and even should be ours to have and to enjoy."

***-Hungry Hearts, Hungry Minds: The Quest for a Reformed Spirituality*, PCUSA**

John of the Cross came from snowless climes so spoke of the "dark night of the soul" to express the desire of the spirit to reach out and touch God. But we Canadians know the effects of darkness as well.

And the long winter wears at us exacerbated by that awful condition that comes with deprivation from the sun...*Seasonal Affective Disorder*- and the February blahs touch us - mind, body and spirit.

Here's a commercial to help rid you of those blahs:

"If you hate and dread the short, dark days of winter—if winter's annual gloom saps you of your usual vitality—if you feel light deprived—our products can probably help."

OK, that's the analysis. But the response is what people need to hear - this condition can be transformed. God has prepared for us, a springtime.

Cold, hunger, darkness.

My experience during the Year of Spirituality has embodied a growing awareness of a hunger within The Presbyterian Church in Canada to experience God in new and living ways and for the members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to grow throughout their faith journey.

In the darkness, in the cold, in our hunger we still proclaim that our chief end is to glorify and enjoy God forever. These winter months see the greatest activity in the life of our congregations. We create communities of warmth and friendliness, light and love. We embrace the gifts of the spirit, the product (or by-product) of the Christian life. All who enter into our faith communities will hopefully experience what comes from the Spirit: ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness and self-control.... (Galatians 5: 22)

The purpose of the Christian life is to give praise and glory to God. The purpose of the church is to broaden and deepen that praise until all of creation sings to the

Spirituality for the Bleak Mid-Winter

by Ken Stright

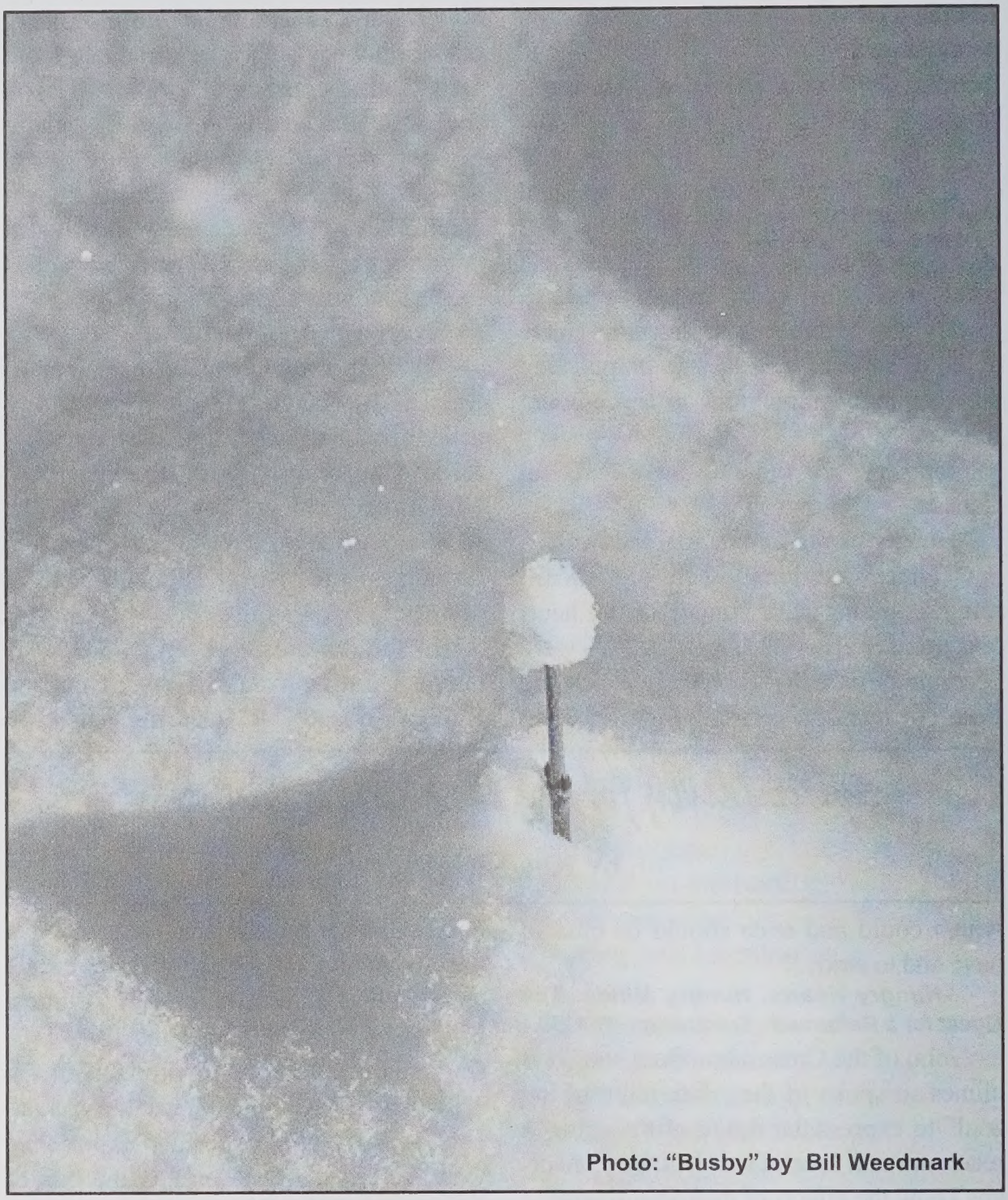


Photo: "Busby" by Bill Weedmark

glory of God. The time to sing is when the darkness, the cold and the hunger threaten to overwhelm us. Congregations that fulfill these purposes have worship at the center of congregational life and spiritual formation as their primary intention, no matter what programs they offer. They experience the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit in their life together and live in grateful thanksgiving to God.

The hymn I shared is a Christmas hymn. Its message is not cold but Christmas, incarnation, the coming of our God:

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ. #145 Book of Praise 1996

And we live, like it or not, locked into the cycle of the seasons, bound completely to the rising and falling of the sun, and of our earth as it continues in its unending course. And we learn to live, and exist, and enjoy the life we have here, tied to the world upon which we live.

Here's how that same commercial for artificial lighting ended:

"We are committed to helping people improve their lighting environment. That's why we're here. Helping people is our goal. We believe we can best achieve that goal by providing…"

How can we best achieve the goal of spiritual awareness, spiritual awakening, and spiritual revival? The Year of Spirituality invites us to lift up the spiritual life and reflect upon a deeper awareness of God.

Definitions cannot bring us to the place we need to go but they can point us in the right direction.

The Year of Spirituality began by offering a direction for us to follow: "Spirituality is our continuing response to the reality of the grace of God in Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit." This remains nothing more than a dead definition until we address the hunger, cold and darkness around us with the gifts of God. Our churches can become true Spirituality Centres as we seek to re-connect with God and one another finding acceptance, healing and new life. Our organizations—like the Women's Missionary Society—can be communities of koinonia (maybe best described as Spirit-filled communities in Christ)… one of the greatest gifts God has to give.

In the bleak mid-winter… or any other time for that matter, we can be transformed and transforming agents of God's love and grace. Let me simply say in closing a heart-felt 'thank you' to all who have embraced the aims of the Year of Spirituality. I have learned so much, experienced so much, and now hope so much for this church I love.

Scripture to consider: Psalm 42

Psalm 42 is a psalm of deepest longing for God. It is honest self-examination of the spiritual condition and addresses the reader with a most profound question: Why? "Why are you downcast, O my soul and why are you disquieted…?"

Can you express the deepest longing of your soul?

When you experience the hunger, the cold and the darkness that are part of the spiritual life, what memories sustain you and encourage you (verse 6)?

Is there a hope within that gives you strength in you time of need? Can you put it into words? (verses 5,11)

Prayer:

In the moments when life seems bleak we ask for your love to continue to lead us on the journey wherein we find our true place within your plan and our true purpose in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ken Stright is National Co-ordinator for the *Flames* Initiative Year of Spirituality

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTE

TIME FOR JUSTICE

State Security Or Human Security?

The role of the state is to ensure the safety of its citizens. It is assumed that the mightier a state, the safer its inhabitants. State security, however, does not guarantee security based on justice. Societies sometimes create injustices and oppress the weak and vulnerable.

Human security provides a new perspective. It does not understand security in purely military terms, but embraces the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for everyone. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the UN, states:

Human security can no longer be understood in purely military terms. Rather it must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratisation, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Human security is known as a "people-centred security" or "security with a human face." It draws attention to the citizens of a state, to the people in whom God has taken a special interest. The Bible embraces that kind of security. God is concerned about the weak, the poor.

When the security of the state is understood as human security, and not merely in terms of military strength, our global community has an opportunity to become a caring community, echoing the biblical promise of shalom or peace for young and old, rich and poor.

It is Time for Justice! Pray and work for a profound reordering of society ensuring safety for everyone, young and old, women and men, native-born and immigrant, rich and poor.

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 129th General Assembly, June 2003. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2003.

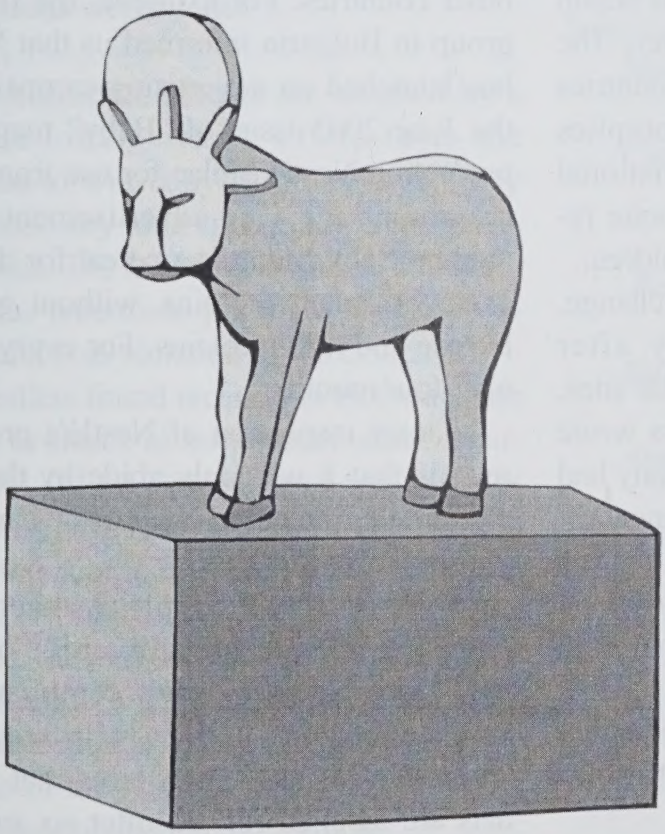
Time for Justice! may be read as a Minute for Mission, or printed as a bulletin insert or newsletter article to inform members of the international concerns of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and ask for their prayerful consideration of these matters.

TEXT: Dineke Kraay **EDITING & DESIGN: Gail Turner**

BIBLE COLOURS

A Puzzle by Rosalie Sugrue

1. One horse of the apocalypse was ___ (Revelation 6:5) B _ _ _ _
2. Your sins shall be __ like snow (Isaiah1:18) _ _ I _ _
3. Jacob took the speckled and ___ cattle (Genesis 30:32 AV) B _ _ _ _
4. Aaron made a ___ calf (Exodus 32:2-4) _ _ L _ _ _
5. Makes me lie down in ___ pastures (Psalm 23:2) _ _ _ E _
6. The midwife tied a ___ thread round his wrist (Genesis 38;28) _ C _ _ _ _ _
7. Feathers of __ gold (Psalm 68:13 AV) _ _ _ _ O _
8. The sanctuary curtains had loops of __ (Exodus 2:4) _L _ _
9. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many __ (Genesis 37:3 AV) _ _ _O _ _ _
10. The youth David had a __ complexion (1Samuel 16:12 AV) _U _ _ _
11. The beauty of old men is their __ hair (Proverbs 20:24) _R _ _
12. Rahab tied a __ cord from her window (Joshua 2:18) _ _ _ _S _ _



1. BLACK
2. WHITE
3. BROWN
4. GOLDEN
5. GREEN
6. SCARLET
7. YELLOW
8. BLUE
9. COLOURS
10. RUDDY
11. GREY
12. CRIMSON

Nestlé Boycott Continues Strong

Nestlé, the world's largest baby food manufacturer, remains in non-compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. As a boycott target, Nestlé is not only the largest baby food manufacturer, but also sets the marketing trends for the industry. Nestlé's disrespect for the International Code and subsequent, relevant resolutions of the World Health Assembly, knowingly puts babies at risk.

It is well aware that any separation between baby and breast poses serious health threats for infants and young children. The boycott stands strong in over 20 countries and will continue until Nestlé complies fully with the tenets of the International Code and takes seriously its corporate responsibility towards the world's children.

The Nestlé boycott is forcing change, although reluctantly. Recently after demonstrations at several UK Nestlé sites, Nestlé's Head of Corporate Affairs wrote to Baby Milk Action that the company had changed the labels of its complementary foods to comply with the requirements of the Code that complementary foods should not be marketed for infants younger than six months of age.

This has been a requirement since the World Health Assembly adopted Resolution 47.5 in 1994.

However, Nestlé's claim that it is 'leading the way' in the six-month labelling issue needs closer examination. UNICEF Hong Kong wrote to Nestlé on 29 May 2003:

"We were pleased to note from the headlines of your International Code Action Report that Nestlé is taking the initiative on six-month labelling. It was therefore with some disappointment to see that Nestlé Hong Kong is still promoting complementary food from four months onwards...the Department of Health of the Hong Kong Government has followed the WHO recommendation of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life."

Similar reports are coming in from other countries. For example, the IBFAN group in Bulgaria informed us that Nestlé has launched an advertising campaign in the June 2003 issue of "Baby" magazine promoting Nestlé Sinlac for use from four months of age. The advertisement says: "Sinlac Baby Menu is a cereal for dietary uses with plant proteins, without gluten, lactose and milk proteins. For every baby over four months."

Closer inspection of Nestlé's promise reveals that it will only abide by the six-month requirement in countries where it is given no choice.

Even in those countries where the company does technically abide by the WHA resolution, Nestlé's compliance is hardly exemplary. In India, where the government's legislation requires that products are labelled for use after six months

of age, Nestlé's new labels have appeared, but in the advertisements to parents, the prominent age of use on the pack is obscured by placing it in a cartoon train carriage and the reference to six months appears only in small print. Nestlé's new strategy appears to deliberately obscure the 'age of use' information and instead promote what it is calling its 'l-2-3 feeding plan' using teddy bear figures representing stages of development.

The boycott against Nestlé is critical to force it to change its deadly marketing practices. Its marketing techniques remain as disreputable as ever. Until these practices are in full compliance with the International Code, the boycott will remain in place.

Hit Nestlé where it hurts the most, in the wallet!

Among examples of Nestlé's ongoing violations worldwide:

—In Lithuania, parents are tempted by a Nestlé lottery which offers them the chance to win baby furniture when they purchase any kind of Nestlé cereal, juice, or puree. The lottery provides extra incentive for parents to purchase Nestlé products and is in violation of the Code.

—Leaflets found recently in Botswana are fresh evidence of how Nestlé idealizes artificial infant feeding and undermines breastfeeding, while claiming to be a 'trusted' company. "Growing is thirsty work" is the message on the front of the leaflet, pushing the idea that infants need additional fluids. In reality, breastmilk provides all the liquid an infant needs. The inside of the leaflet also suggests the formula is equivalent to breastmilk.

The World Health Organization estimates that 1.5 million infant deaths every year can be averted through improved breastfeeding practices (WHO Press Release, WHA/10:9 May, 1994). This means eliminating unnecessary bottle feeding and unethical marketing.

Don't add to Nestlé's fortune while they add to infant suffering. Say no to formula pushers! Boycott these products until Nestlé changes its marketing practices. Be sure to check all labels on products you buy, as Nestlé owns may brands you may be familiar with. For a more complete list, check the INFACT Canada website, and please contact us to receive free Nestlé Boycott stickers.

Reprinted from INFACT Canada Newsletter Spring 2003, Page 11.

Are these among products you regularly use:

Haagen-Dazs,
Nabisco Chip Ahoy!,
Cat Chow, Fancy Feast,
Maybelline,
Redken,
Perrier, Coffee-mate,
Stouffer's,
KitKat, Turtles?

Stop using these products. Say "No" to Nestlé!

IN MEMORIAM

Agnes Roy

Agnes Roy died on October 2, 2003 in Toronto. She was 92. A life-long member of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, she was well known in many circles, especially among women. Agnes was one of the first two elders at Calvin Presbyterian Church where she was known for her pastoral and administrative skills. She worked hard for the recognition of women, both in the church and in society. She is one of the people to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for paving the way for women who follow.

Agnes was Executive Director of the YWCA of Canada, an organization that has done a lot for women. She served on the world YWCA, traveling for them to India and Australia, among other places. In retirement she worked at the YW Boutique on Roy Street, Toronto and was the recruiter for volunteers.

In the community she was influential in setting up the Delisle Youth House (Calvin's old Manse) which was the beginning of Delisle Youth Services. She was its first Chairperson.

Agnes was Chair of the Churches' Forum for Global Ministries and a participant in the Ecumenical Bible Studies as long as they lasted. Agnes also served as Chairperson of Ewart College and was on the Personnel Committee of the WMS (during a rough period).

Within the Presbyterian Church, she was an active layperson and made a significant contribution by serving on the Committee on the Place of Women in the Church. This committee prepared the church to make the decision in 1966 for the ordination of women to the ministry of word and sacraments and the eldership.

Later she was on the staff of Calvin church, Toronto and vice convener of the Board of Ministry when it was established.

After retirement Agnes worked as Administrative assistant to Dr. Doug Herron, minister at Calvin and later with Dr. David Hay who was Interim minister during Doug's sabbatical. She was a pastoral visitor par excellence. In 2001 Agnes moved to a retirement home in Kitchener, Ontario.

Margaret Henderson, a senior staff member of ministry and church vocations, previously Board of Ministry remembers Agnes as a very gracious and wise woman.

She was an advocate for women and youth in all that she did, a great friend, host to all and care giver.

Mabel Florence McCutcheon

Mabel Florence McCutcheon died August 10, 2003 at the age of 92. Mabel was very active in WMS circles. She was Young Women's Secretary of Hamilton Presbyterial, then in 1960 became president of the presbyterial, following in her mother's footsteps.

Florence Mabel McCutcheon
Photo: Presbyterian Archives Mabel Florence McCutcheon by John Johnston, *Gifts and Graces*, ed by John S. Moir, page 68.

In 1963 Mabel was appointed to the National WMS executive, serving as Supply Secretary and a member of the Planning, Policy, Mission and Finance Committees, and finally as national treasurer of the WMS. She also served on the national council of the Leprosy Mission, Canada, and the executive of the Board of World Mission.

In 1974 she was elected vice chair, and in 1975 became chair of the Board of World Mission. In this latter capacity she traveled throughout Canada and the Orient. Many of the initiatives introduced during her term of office proved of lasting value to the whole church.

Between 1953 and 1968, Mabel led the CGIT group in Chalmer's Church, Hamilton. She taught for many years in the Vacation Bible School of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Toronto, as well as conducting English classes for Chinese immigrant women. With the arrival of the Boat People from Vietnam and Cambodia she laboured tirelessly on their behalf.

Mabel McCutcheon came from a long line of missionaries. Her great, great grandfather was supported by the Scottish Missionary Society in Russia 1803-27. Later he served the British and Foreign Bible Society by translating the New Testament into Tartar-Turkish as well as ninety-five per cent of the Hebrew Bible.

Her great grandmother, a friend of David Livingstone, served with her husband, Rev. Walter Inglis in Bechuanal (now Botswana) and under the London Missionary Society. Expelled by the Boers, they moved to Canada and served as missionaries of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Mrs. McCutcheon's grandfather, Rev. Dr. Archibald MacLean, served the Presbyterian Church in Western Ontario. Her father, Rev. Dr. Walter Inglis McLean, concluded his ministry in Chalmer's, Hamilton, where Mabel was a life-long member.

Mabel was married to the late Willem (Ed) McCutcheon and will be sadly missed by her six children and ten grandchildren.

What of the Night?

We sleep in dreams of effervescent light.
The stars whirling like a carousel on a mosaic sky.
The journey whispers of the night.
Its radiant splendor cradles still;
rising, soaring, through infinite space and time.
Transported by its marvelous Light,
when all but night is swept away.

Darlene Lajeunesse

This poem is about the journey from death to eternity. It is not to be feared, but embraced.

INVOCATION

Christ has
No body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours,
No feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which He is to look out
Christ's compassion to the world,
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good,
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless [us] now.
St. Teresa of Avila

We have a fixed idea in our minds of what we expect "church" to be.
We talk about being the "body of Christ."
We listen to the words of the Invocation
but what do we hear?
We may even be prepared to welcome the stranger in our midst
- feed the hungry - help the poor - look after the sick -
What we don't see is that
the spiritual counterparts of the stranger,
the hungry, the poor, the grieving
are among us.

Within our congregations are people
experiencing deep spiritual pain: through
grief - the loss of a loved one, a career, financial loss - abuse, exploitation.
We deny or pretend as a way to cope.
We put on our cloaks (masks) of perfection, pat ourselves on the back
and say "everything is just fine here".

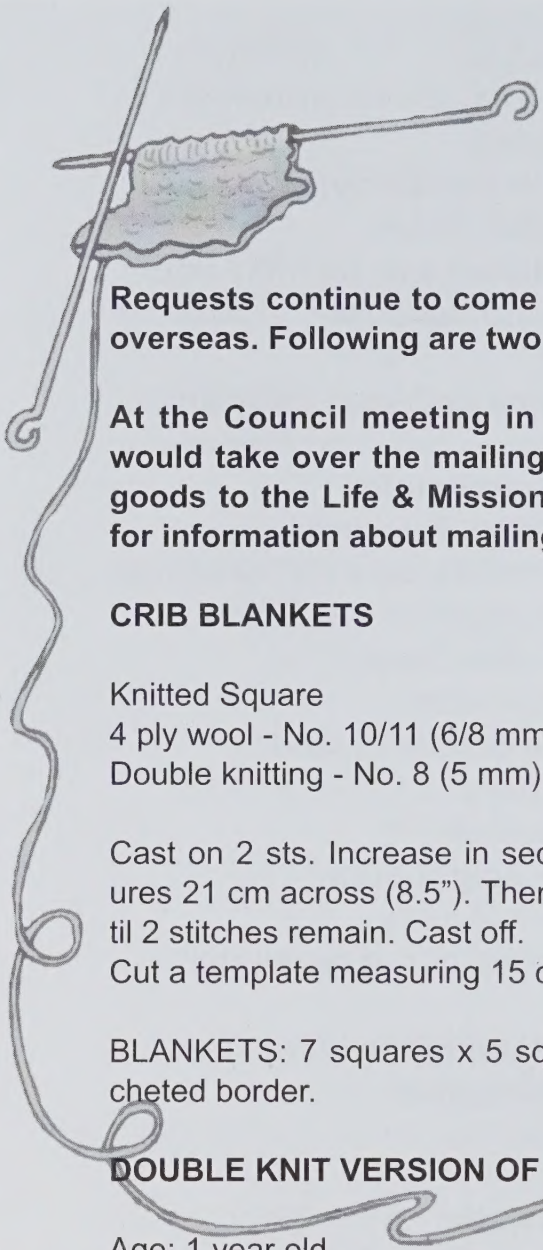
We have grown accustomed to hearing
the beautiful words, the intimate words, the comfortable words
to the extent that they have little meaning for us.
The more we hear them
the greater our dysfunction grows
because our actions get further and further removed
from the words we speak.

We ask the Lord,
"when did we ever see you hungry, thirsty or naked?"
He will respond,
"Funny thing! I sat beside you in church every Sunday
and you didn't bother to ask.
Your complacency made you think I was just like you.
I wasn't able to tell you because
I feared
your judgement, your disapproval and your criticism!"

We haven't yet comprehended
the "how to's" of the beautiful words
love, honour, esteem, respect, comfort, care for, celebrate.
These words are still on the pages of our Bibles,
not at work in our daily lives.
Every Sunday we hear,
"The gifts of God, for the people of God"
and yet we deny
the very gifts that
God gives to us: our neighbours.

"We must move out of the safety of our buildings"
or
"shift our thoughts from maintaining the status quo"
to building His Kingdom
With Love.

Angela Maxwell
Secretary St Margaret's Anglican Church, Barrie, ON



KNITTING MATTERS

Requests continue to come in for patterns for knitted materials to send overseas. Following are two that groups can use.

At the Council meeting in November it was agreed that Synodicals would take over the mailing of knitted goods. Groups should <u>not</u> send goods to the Life & Mission Agency. Contact your Synodical president for information about mailing and knitting.

CRIB BLANKETS

Knitted Square
4 ply wool - No. 10/11 (6/8 mm) needles
Double knitting - No. 8 (5 mm) needles

Cast on 2 sts. Increase in second stitch of each row until the square measures 21 cm across (8.5"). Then decrease in the second stitch of each row until 2 stitches remain. Cast off.
Cut a template measuring 15 cm x15 cm (6"x6")

BLANKETS: 7 squares x 5 squares, sewn or crocheted together with a crocheted border.

DOUBLE KNIT VERSION OF 'MOTHER TERESA'S' VEST

Age: 1 year old
Materials: approximately 1-1$\frac{1}{2}$ balls double knit yarn
4.5 mm (7) knitting needles.
Cast on 66 sts. Work 48 rows k1, p1 rib
Cast off 6 sts, at beg of next 2 rows (54 sts.)
Continue in rib for 16 rows.
Next row: Rib 17 sts., turn. Work a further 18 rows on these 17 sts. - break off yarn.
Rejoin yarn to sts. remaining on left-hand needle. Cast off 20 sts., rib to end.
Rib a further 17 rows.
Cast on 20 sts., then rib over 17 sts. from other side (54 sts.) This forms the neck opening.
Rib 16 rows.

Cast on 6 sts. at the end of next 2 rows (66 sts.).
Work 48 rows rib. Cast off in rib.

Sleeves:
With right side facing, pick up and k 42 sts. around armhole. Rib 7 rows.
Cast off in rib.
Work other sleeve in the same way.

To make up: Stitch side and sleeve seams. Either leave neck as is, or blanket stitch around. Or work 1 row dc around neck. Be careful not to pull the neck too tight to get over child's head.

The Red Cross Knitting Tradition From the Archives of the American Red Cross Museum: At the time of going to press we were unable to get Canadian information but I assume similar things happened in Canada during the war years.

World War I

Beginning with America's entry into World War I, the American Red Cross launched a massive campaign to have the home-front knit wool articles for the armed forces on campaign in Europe. As soon as the call went out, thousands of Americans began knitting the required socks, sweaters, mufflers, afghans, helmets, and wristlets based on detailed instruction booklets and patterns that had been approved by the armed forces.

"In response to urgent appeals made by Major Grayson M.P. Murphy, Red Cross Commissioner to France, and other United States Army officers, the Red Cross has started a drive to encourage the women of the country to knit sweaters, mufflers, socks, and wristlets for our soldiers and sailors...

"One million pounds of knitting wool to be made up into these garments has been purchased by the supply Bureau of the Red Cross in Washington. An idea of the quantity of yarn in this one purchase can be gathered from the fact that if the wool were stretched out it would cover eight hundred thousand miles, or could be stretched around the earth at the equator thirty-two times." **From October 1927 "Red Cross Magazine"**

1920s

In an immediate response to the call of the American Red Cross in 1925 for 30,000 sweaters for disabled veterans in hospitals, Mary Pickford began to knit between scenes of her latest photoplay. The famous screen star is the first woman in the U.S. to start a sweater after the Red Cross got out its nationwide appeal for knitters on September 15, 1917.

Pickford stated: "It's the time for the strong to aid the weak; for the thinking men and women of America to form a solid block behind the unselfish workers of the Red Cross."

World War II

During World War II the call went out again for knitted articles for servicemen. Almost overnight, the Red Cross once again appropriated the massive quantities of khaki wool needed and republished instruction sheets.

Try knitting these historical patterns from the World War II era, available from the American Red Cross: go to pattern downloads: http://www.redcross.org and follow the directions.

Response to When is Giving Not Good? page 3, Nov/Dec 2003:

June: I was very disheartened to read your lead article and the article of Margaret Vanderzweerde in this issue of Glad Tidings. I know that there are good things about "Samaritan's Purse." However, the executive staff of LMA has agonized for some years about the heartache and hardships caused by para church mission projects. When I wrote the two articles last year pointing out some of the real problems with the Samaritan Purse system, we included the MCC kits (they are family kits) as a viable alternative, if people feel the need to give concrete articles. It is my sincere belief that the joy of face paint, bubbles, nail polish, skipping ropes and balls are wonderful, but they last for a day. What we are trying to do in mission is to make systemic, long lasting, family and nation supported change. I also, personally, have a huge issue with exporting our North American idea of happiness to children in the third/developing world.

Dorothy Henderson

Editor's Note:

There has been mixed response to the article I wrote. One elder told me she danced in the aisles to have the mission project of their church affirmed. Others said they had decided not to do the shoeboxes following the information received last year from the Life & Mission Agency.

When I began the article I was firmly against Operation Christmas Child, having heard stories of unfair distribution and disappointed children. My biggest concern was about the proselytizing that seemed often to go along with the gifts. I had also read about Samaritan's Purse plan to go into Iraq with tracts on the pretext of giving aid. Muslims in places like Iraq find the scheme offensive.

I felt satisfied that with Margaret Vanderzweerde's experience and materials from Samaritan's Purse, that sometimes things went well.

However, a strident email came the other day from a reliable source. I found it very disturbing: Its main thrust was "the toxic agenda" of Operation Christmas Child, which through Samaritan's Purse aims to advance "the Christian faith through educational projects and the relief of poverty."

The fact that it is run by Rev. Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham, who has called Islam "a very wicked and evil religion" is suspect. Graham is from the same school of thought as General Willliam Boykin, US deputy undersecretary of defence for intelligence, who described America as waging a holy war again "the idol" of Islam's false god and "a guy called Satan" who wants to destroy us as a Christian army."

And there is more. All I can say, is to repeat what I said in the article, "When Is Giving Not Good?": "Give with presence of mind and discernment. Study the issue as best you can. Listen to the pros and cons of various projects. Try to discern if what you give will actually get to where it

is supposed to and how much good it will do." If in doubt, certainly choose projects supported by the PCC.

BOOKS

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Castle Quay Books Canada Announce New Title by Rev Dale Lang and Mark Lang: **Jason Has Been Shot: The True Story of Family, Faith and the Power of Forgiveness**. With a foreword by David Mainse.

Toronto (July 2003)—It was one of Canada's most watched news conferences where, live on national TV, Pastor Dale Lang forgave and then prayed for the school in Taber, Alberta in 1999. The shooting incident left most Canadians shocked and grieved but many don't know about the inspiring outcome that God brought about.

Now, Castle Quay Books Canada is pleased to announce that the full story is available by Mark Lang and Rev Dale Lang in *Jason Has Been Shot!* with a foreword by David Mainse.

At the same time that North Americans were focusing on the brave actions of several Christian teens in the Columbine High School shooting in Colorado, Canada was quietly having its own Columbine incident. What Canadians once thought "could only happen in America," was now taking place right here in our own backyard to Jason Lang, the son of an Anglican pastor. *Jason Has Been Shot!* is the true and inspiring story of how a family's torment was used by God as "raw material" to turn their anger and grief into a powerful testimony of His grace through the act of forgiving their son's killer.

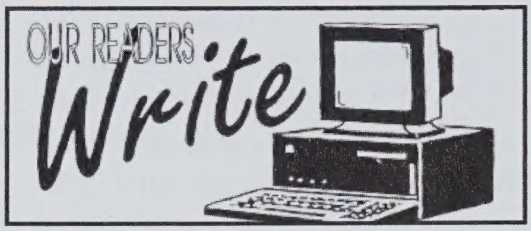
"During my interview with Pastor Dale Lang, I was struck by the depth of his loss and the breadth of his capacity to forgive his son's killer. This book will be an inspiration to everyone."—Jim Cantelon, Host: Eye to Eye, CTS Television

"Dale Lang holds the record as being the first in history to fly over the North Pole in a hot air balloon. Dale's steady hand and heart show the way through the most inhospitable places in a world of heartache, sorrow, pain and death. This book is 'a journey into joy.'"—David Mainse, Host: 100 Huntley Street

Dale had the privilege of winning the first Canadian National Hot Air Balloon Championship in 1979. Today, Pastor Lang ministers around the "The Rock" with his son Mark. Dale speaks at hundreds of events across the country, and appears as a regular guest host of the daily television devotional "In His Service" on 100 Huntley Street.

Jason Has Been Shot: The True Story of Family, Faith and the Power of Forgiveness is available at Christian book stores, Chapters, Indigo, Augsburg Fortress

Publishers Canada, or may be ordered from most bookstores. Soft cover, 151 pp $20.95.



September 27, 2003—Read in the May/June 2003 issue of the Glad Tidings reports of the Washington college student, 23-year old Rachel Corrie, who was run down by a bull-dozer while protesting the bulldozing of Palestinian homes in Gaza. The body of the article consists of exerpts from an e-mail from Rachel on February 7, 2003, two weeks after her arrival in the Gaza Strip. She is, to coin a phrase, shell shocked by the horrible realities of war.

In response to this, I repeat my own position statement here: If the nations of the world, including the Arab world and North America, had opened their borders gladly for the Jewish refugees during the Second World War, the push for the U.N. to give Israel back to the Jews likely would not have been on the agenda. But they didn't and this mess about "Palestine" is what we have left to us.

I know I am supposed to feel sympathetic to the position of the young woman who was bulldozed but it is a slow journey. I think that her feelings of invincibility as an American white citizen made her reckless. This, I know, is an emotional response on my part, an angry form of grieving for her. Sadly, I realise that perhaps indeed we still need martyrs in this world.

Rachel makes some very astute observations that we should heed lest her death be in vain. The one we may reflect on is her suggestion for a sister community relationship with e-mail exchanges. She never lived long enough, one supposes from this small selection of her writing, to flesh out her ideas in this matter. It seems to be a far better solution than to give oneself up as road kill.

This article is not time-sensitive. Although her death becomes farther into the past, the issues she raises will unfortunately remain for some time to come. Read the article for yourself and write in your reflections and responses.

Janet Wiebe, St. Giles,
St. Catharines, ON

Editor: Your responses may be published on the WMS/Glad Tidings website which is presently being constructed.

September 14, 2003
Dear June,
Thank you for the many good things in the September/October issue of Glad Tidings. I would like to respond to Edward P. Mason's article "Christ: the One and Only Way" with another view.

Many scholars do not believe Jesus said any of the "I Am" sayings in John's Gospel and did not say, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." These are the words of John and they express the belief of some in the early church. Only in John are such words attributed to Jesus. The other three Gospels do not present Christ in the same way. Jesus, a good Jew, would not have said such things about himself. Jesus came to point others to God. And how many good Jews would believe someone who boasted so much about himself?

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Jesus is the way for me to God - the best expression of God's love in action. In Jesus I see the truth and experience the life of God. But is God limited to Jesus - in the way we know him? To say to Jews, Hindus and Muslims that Jesus is the only way to God is off-putting - in the same way it is off-putting for Protestant to hear some Roman Catholics declare that there is no salvation outside the true church - the Roman Catholic church.

God and Jesus are far greater than our ideas of them. I have lived among Hindus and Muslims and am impressed by their reverence for Jesus. A helpful book is entitled, "The Hidden Christ of Hinduism." Ironically the Hindus cannot accept Jesus as the only way to God because they believe in many gods and the Muslims cannot believe that no one comes to God except through Jesus because they believe in One God and claim Christians believe in three gods.

The most helpful way to reach others for Christ is not to demand they believe in him alone as the only way to God but to share with them God's love revealed in Jesus. Then we can trust that God will use that love to help others to grow in Christ. Such people may never become part of the Christian Church (for many good reasons) but they will rejoice in God who expressed his love for all people through Jesus, our Lord.

Yours truly,

Zander Dunn, Stella, ON. K0H 2S0

Growing change in Malawi

photo: Rachel Bezner Kerr, Malawi

Idah Chavula, a farmer in Malawi, is harvesting the pigeon peas she planted with the support of PWS&D.

With your support PWS&D is helping farmers in Malawi use groundnuts (peanuts), pigeon peas and soybeans as ways to provide protein for their children and nitrogen to grow their maize (corn).

PWS&D counts on your donations to support innovative relief and development programs around the world. Please give generously.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7 tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301 pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Forward in Faith

It is hard to believe that another year has quickly come to an end. It was a busy year for members of the Women's Missionary Society.

Receipts from Presbyterials across the church to the end of September, the latest figures available at this time, amounted to $340,236. This is 45.2% of our total receipts for 2002.

Undesignated legacies to the end of September amounted to $66,043, which is considerably less than the past two years when our legacies were unusually high.

This year we have been able to give financial assistance in many areas, both in Canada and overseas. It was agreed that the balance in the account from the sale of the Prince Albert House (native work) be turned over to The Presbyterian Church in Canada toward our church's part with the Federal Government in the alternative resolutions dispute process re residential schools.

The 2003 Canada Grant was made to the Boarding Homes Ministry. $15,000 was sent to Dr. Rick Allen in Kenya, Africa toward the control program for HIV/AIDS. Seven Presbyterials/Synodicals were assisted with expenses for annual meetings, retreats, and study days for a total of $2,900.

Theological students in Africa, India and Central America received a total of $10,000 toward their studies. Four young people were assisted in the amount of $1,550 for a Youth in Mission trip to Ghana; another three young people were assisted by $1,200 re a Youth in Mission program this past summer at Mistawasis, Saskatchewan.

A piano was purchased for Brian Johnston's work in Romania, and two students there were assisted financially. Native work received assistance: $40,000 was approved for a new roof for the Kenora Fellowship Centre; grants in the amount of $12,200 were approved towards the support of the parish nurse at Anishinabe Fellowship and Flora House in Winnipeg; $1,500 was approved toward expenses for a survey of native work in British Columbia.

Four persons were assisted with courses in the amount of $950. A library will be built for a small school in Uganda with a grant of $6,000.

The grants approved for the year amount to approximately $157,000, most of which has been paid at this date.

As we consider the many ways in which the WMS has been able to assist persons in preparing for Christian Service and providing suitable facilities for Christian Outreach, we are grateful to the members of the Society for their faithfulness in providing the necessary resources. You have helped to change lives! May the Lord richly bless you.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

Thoughts and Afterthoughts on Gossip

Compiled by Eve Stickland

One nice thing about bores is that they don't talk about other people.

E.C. McKenzie. 14,000 Quips & Quotes p 214, 1980.

MISSION IN ACTION

Van Wissen
Nicaragua, CA

July 2003—Warm greetings! When I left Nicaragua for Canada at the end of April, we were well into the dry season, and it showed! Hot, dry, dusty, water shortages—pretty miserable. Upon my return in mid-June, however, the rains had been all-out for a few weeks, and the countryside was transformed with lush, green, vibrant foliage.

With the rains came new hope for a good harvest. Beans and corn are planted after the first heavy rain. This year, there was so much rain for a few weeks that the beans started to turn yellow and there was some fear of losing the crop.

Work picks up for SOYNICA, too, when the rains start. The Food and Nutritional Security program team worked hard to distribute different seeds to the families in the 36 communities where we're working.

Fruit tree seedlings (citrus, banana and of other tropical fruits, and young pineapple plants were also shared with those who wished to plant them, and various agricultural implements such as machetes, spades, hoes and watering cans were given as further incentive to those families who had already shown initiative.

We thank CFGB and PWS&D for their funding, which makes the Food and Nutritional Security program possible.

In July, eight months of hard work and many meetings culminated in the first ever Central American 'ECHO' Regional Conference. Representatives from eight different Nicaraguan organizations and also from several Honduran organizations met for five days at a World Relief Resource Centre, located high (1,500 m) in the mountains. Nicaraguans aren't accustomed to temperatures below about 20 C so there was a lot of shivering and jumping around to keep warm, but everyone loved the tranquility of the isolated conference centre.

The presentations and workshops focused largely on agricultural topics, but SOYNICA made sure that nutrition wasn't excluded; our workshop on Green Leaf Extract was very well received. A presentation on 'Culture and Development' (from a Christian perspective) by a Baptist pastor generated so much discussion that we will definitely try to include 'Responsible Farming and Christianity'-type topics in next year's event.

Our conference was inspired by and modeled after, the annual ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) Conference held in Fort Meyer's, Florida, where ECHO has their experimental farm. I attended this conference for the first time last November, and made acquaintance with many Latin American agricultural and development workers as well as American missionaries to Central America.

We were very impressed by the ECHO Conference and learned so much that we wanted to share with our colleagues, that we decided to copy Haiti's idea of organizing their own mini-conference. My colleague Azucena, and I formed part of

the six-member organizational committee, accompanied by representatives from World Relief, Ebenezer Small Animal Organization, the Church of Christ of Nicaragua, and a PC-USA volunteer.

SOYNICA is especially grateful to PWS&D, which sponsored the participation in the conference of agronomists and three community leaders. We thank you for your prayers, too!

August 2003—Hello again from Nicaragua! I'm writing this in August, but yesterday, Sunday, felt like Thanksgiving! A friend invited me to a family get-together at her parent's place in the country. When we arrived, her father and brothers were trudging up the hill lugging huge sacks of fresh corn!

A vegetable soup was soon bubbling on the rustic wood-burning stove, and after a refreshing paddle in the river, everyone lent a hand to the tamale-making process: dehusking the corn, cutting it off the cobs, grinding it manually, then dropping spoonfuls of the creamy mixture back into clean husks to be steam-cooked.

It was a great day of celebration of the corn harvest! After the soup, we enjoyed corn-on-the-cob, both boiled and roasted, and took the tamales home for supper!

Here in Ocotal, we're also enjoying the annual town festivities. In Central America, according to Catholic tradition, every town has its own patron saint, and week-long celebrations are enjoyed each year.

Activities include bucking bull-riding competitions, greased pig-chasing for the kids, and grandiose equestrian parades down main street. As part of the festivities, a group of organizations working in rural areas have organized an agricultural fair for the past few years, and this year SOYNICA was pleased to take part. We invited women from our communities to come and sell their excess produce, and each of our team members made a different soya dish; soup with soya "meatballs," soya sandwich spread, chop suey (a "traditional" Nica favourite for parties), but prepared with soya instead of chicken, and homemade drinks and juices complemented the spread. As always happens when we have food fairs, everything was sold before the end of long, hot day.

The educational workshop this month was an introduction to Gender Issues. In Nicaragua, the problem of "machismo" is endemic; it manifests itself not only in high rates of domestic violence, but in many other ways within families, for example, in the unequal repartition of the best part of the meal (eggs or a little cheese).

Yet another consequence of machismo is the low rate of female participation in community activities. Although we at SOYNICA work primarily with women, for this workshop, the team made a special

Overseas Staff Birthdays

MAY
26 - Pauline Brown, India

JUNE
1 - Louise Gamble, Taiwan
10 - Joy Randall, Taiwan
15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan
25 - Christopher Jorna, Guyana

effort to invite all the women's husbands, younger fellows, and men from the community who weren't necessarily directly involved in our program.

It was interesting to take part in these workshops since gender roles are very strictly defined in the rural communities, as was highlighted in one of the exercises which consisted in a discussion of which characteristics or traits are inborn (as a female or male), and which are learned.

The objective of the workshop was to encourage both personal reflection and discussion, fostering more egalitarian division of labour in the family, looking towards eventually creating a more balanced society.

The coffee industry continues in crisis because of rock-bottom world prices. For the second year in a row, thousands of campesinos (poor farmers) from one of the major coffee-producing areas, embarked on a 300-odd kilometer "march" to the capital to demand that the government fulfill the promises made last year (after a similar march). At least a dozen people died on route due to malnutrition.

I was on my way to Managua one day when I came upon police officers signaling for motorists to slow down. I soon realized that I'd arrived at the campesino's "camp"—each family had a small piece of black plastic raised in the middle just high enough to allow a few people (probably just the children) to lie underneath.

There've been many mobilizations of people on the highway for different demonstrations, but this time I couldn't get over the sheer number of people; men, women, children, older folks on both sides of a long stretch of highway.

SOYNICA's Food and Nutritional Security program, thanks to PWS&D funding is helping the campesino families in our region to avoid hunger and having to "march to Managua." Do keep us in your prayers. Thank you!

Denise

Patterson
Central America

September, 2003—Greetings from El Salvador. It has been discovered that the high officials of ANDA, the government water utility, have been siphoning millions of dollars for their own personal use over the past several years. While all this was going on, many communities have been left with little or no water. A prime example is community Pacheco in Metapán.

Five years ago the people succeeded in having ANDA agree to bring water to their community. The pipes were installed; the water started flowing, but only to the first half of the community. The rest have never received a single drop. Month by month the water bills come to every home in Community Pacheco. Everyone pays, even the ones who do not receive water.

The waterless families pay because they are afraid that if they don't, ANDA will take out the pipes and they may never get them back again. The people are probably right. The local church has been trying to intercede for them with ANDA for three months. ANDA does not even return their calls. I asked one of the women why it is that she is more or less content to draw her water in buckets from a filthy river even

though she is paying a water bill. "It must be God's will!" she says. Personally, we are not sure that it is.

Miguel Portillo Baptist Church accompanies these women. They are troubled not only by a lack of water, but also by "mis-nutrition," machismo, lack of opportunity, and religious "mis-information."

For the 70% of Salvadorans who live in varying degrees of poverty, the problems that are faced daily just trying to survive are many. Ignorance (from years of being denied access to education), poverty (from years of slavery and repression which has evolved into a less violent but equally deadly lack of jobs), malnutrition (from poverty and ignorance), and poor health (from all of the above…). On top of that, the prevailing "theology" has instilled in the people the idea that all of this is "The Will of God."

So under the rubric of "God's Will:"

— A baby dies for lack of access to medicine.

— A woman pays a drug store more than a day's wage to fill a prescription given her by a thoughtless doctor for an injection of vitamins for her "nerves" (good for one day) the cost of which only adds to her anxiety over her poverty. For half the price she could have bought a box of All-Bran— it contains the same vitamins, but enough for several days.

— A poor man is robbed of what little he has by the local hoodlums, some of the thousands of unemployed youth in El Salvador.

The flip side of this theological lie is what attracts so many people to the prevailing theology. Thus, if your relatives send you dollars from the north, God has

Pastor Ramon (l) with scholarship recipients and Principal Napoleon.

"blessed" you. If you manage to swindle or otherwise take advantage of your neighbour (like the managers of ANDA), then God has "richly blessed" you. And if you can manipulate enough people into accepting this line, and then paying their tithe, well then, you are a successful pastor and "very blessed indeed! Hallelujah!"

Pastor Ramon walks the streets of Metapán talking with the people. He has no church building, just a tiny office which also serves as meeting room and storehouse. He listens to their problems. He does not invite them to "Come to Jesus and be saved." Instead he talks about how Jesus worked tirelessly to touch the infirmities and the wounds of his people. He helps them work toward a real solution to their problems. He does not invite them to a worship service, nor to tithe. This, in itself, is a real blessing.

What does it take to swim against the currents of theological lies? It certainly takes a lot of courage. For example, when Pastor Felix of Compassionate God Church in Ahuachapán was in the process of organizing the community clinic in

Chancuyo, a neighbouring pastor set out with a sound truck to tell the whole community that the clinic was the "work of the Devil."

The people from Dios Compasivo put their ears to the ground to discover just what the real problem was for this fellow. Turns out, he is afraid that if the people pay their clinic subscription, they won't be able to give him his full tithe.... It was fairly simple to counteract the bad press. We passed the word back through the community: "If the Devil is building community clinics, then God has won the day. He has converted the Devil."

Neither Ramon nor Felix is "successful" by Salvadoran standards. There are, however, other standards to take into account.

We ask your prayers for Ramon, Felix, their churches and their communities. Thank you for sending us to learn from them.

Jim & Brenda

Howard
India

September 5, 2003—Greetings from above the clouds in the Himalayan foothills! It is hard to believe we have been in India now for almost two months.

We have adjusted very well to life here at Woodstock. The staff have been most welcoming, friendly and helpful, and from our arrival, made us feel at home. We were shown around the school, campus, hillside and town within the first week, participated in the New Staff Orientation, and then

Doc Edgar with little patient.

hit the ground running as students started arriving July 27 and school started July 30th.

Rosalie's assignment was changed soon after arriving from Dorm Parent to French teacher. She teaches all the French classes from Grade 8-12, and has been "parlez-vous"-ing non stop since the semester started. This is a temporary position, but thus far, there is no end in sight. She also spends part of her evenings and weekends at Edgehill Dorm where Alan is working.

Edgehill houses 40 students from Grades 2-5. Alan's day starts at 5:30 a.m. and goes to well after 10:00 p.m. during the week with a few hours off in the middle of the day to take Hindi lessons, do some necessary housework, catch up on emails and take a short nap! On weekends the start is a little later, but it is non-stop activity until bedtime.

Today Pravin and Sheheena Jelaji, the dorm supervisor and his wife, walked with a group of students down to the "buz." That is the bazaar/market/downtown Mussoorie, for the afternoon. Alan and 13 boys

who didn't want to go on the excursion came down to the elementary school lab to send emails and play computer games, and are now back at Edgehill Dorm playing soccer, basketball, boards games, etc.

Kirsten and Robynne often spend their free time at Edgehill but today were invited to the home of one of Kirsten's classmates, whose parents work here at Woodstock. The girls have made a number of friends in their classes and, in spite of the heavier homework load, quite enjoy both their academic and social life here and are now quite comfortable going from one place to another on their own.

As most students and staff live on the 200-acre campus and town is only a couple of kilometres away, we walk everywhere, to school, piano lessons, after-school clubs and sports activities, friends' homes, church, market, etc. With Woodstock spread out on the side of five hills and an altitude difference of 1000 feet between the lower playing field and the Mt. Hermon dorm, we're all much fitter than we were two months ago.

Please pray for us. Alan and I are on totally opposite schedules and family time is a rare commodity, though we are acutely aware of its importance. Please pray we are able to balance our various commitments to have sufficient personal time and "together" time.

Please also pray for Hannah, one of Kirsten's friends, who has an undiagnosed illness which has caused swelling in her brain, spinal cord and pancreas. She is back at school after several hospital stays, tests and treatments, but is still not well.

May God bless you richly. In Him,

Alan, Rosalie, Kirsten and Robynne

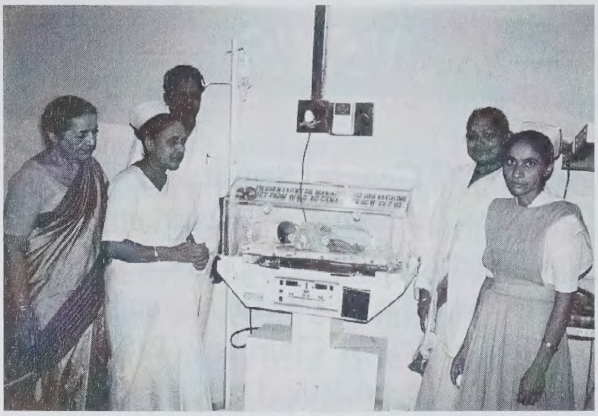
WMS Gift to Retiring Marjorie Ross Celebrated as Incubator for Jobat Christian Hospital

July 25, 2003 was a day of celebration at Jobat Christian Hospital. The staff and friends from the town gathered under a colourful tent to inaugurate an incubator for the hospital's maternity ward. Despite a steady drizzle, which meant that most of the audience had their umbrellas up to keep off the drips, it was a joyful occasion, and particularly memorable for me, the only Canadian guest.

I retired this summer after eleven years as associate secretary for International Ministries, and I was surprised and delighted when Mrs. Joanne Instance, president of the Women's Missionary Society presented me with a cheque for $2,000 during her address to the General Assembly in June. She explained that this was to be used for an incubator for the Jobat Christian Hospital and given in my name.

Through the efficient work of a number of people, the funds were transferred to Dr. Deborah Tezlo immediately, and she ordered an incubator for delivery to Jobat before July 25 when I planned to be in Jobat for my last official visit. It arrived with a day to spare!

In the ceremony, chaired by our friend Dr. Pauline Brown, I was asked to "inaugurate" the incubator. It is clearly marked "Presented by Dr. Marjorie Ross. Her retiring gift from W.M.S. PC Canada to Jobat Christian Hospital 25.07.03." In my brief remarks I told the group that this gift has special personal significance for me. Three of my grandchildren spent their first days in an incubator, and one of them spent the



Left: A retirement gift to Marjore Ross from WMS purchased incubator for hospital. Right: staff look on. Left is Pauline Brown and second from right Dr. Deborah Tezlo.

first two months of his life in one. I closed by saying, "I am thankful to God and to the Women's Missionary Society that this incubator will provide the same gift of life to Jobat babies as my grandchildren have received in Canada."

Dr. Tezlo told me that Jobat Hospital had been given an incubator about twenty years ago. It was in a difficult period of the hospital's history, and when it broke down after a few years it was lost.

Since then, the nurses have tried to keep premature babies alive with extra woolies (many from Canada), and very fragile infants are sent by ambulance to the nearest hospital possessing an incubator—more than an hour's journey. Many of these tiny infants do not survive.

Dr. Tezlo, the head nurse, the midwives and the whole nursing staff were clearly delighted that they now have this wonderful piece of equipment, thanks to the thoughtfulness of the WMS.

In the same ceremony, we also dedicated a "converter." This is a small electric generator which switches on immediately the town electricity fails, and recharges itself when the power comes back on.

It only runs for a few hours, but Dr. Ambrose (a young colleague of Dr. Tezlo's) told me it is extremely useful in the delivery room.

He said, "When the baby is coming you can't wait ten minutes for someone to go and wake up the maintenance man and for him to go and start the diesel generator. You need light right away." The converter was a parting gift from Chris Embree of Vancouver who spent several months in Jobat in the spring.

Another gift from a friend of the hospital stands beside the incubator in the maternity ward. This is a phototherapy machine (special lights for treating newborns with jaundice) which was a gift from Doreen Morrison, who was for many years part of the Jobat nursing team.

This ceremony was a highlight of my visit to Jobat. I want to thank the WMS. for associating me with this life-giving gift. I know that all our friends in Jobat Christian Hospital want me to assure you of their delight and appreciation.

In this year when our mission study centres our attention on our Bhil friends this was an especially appropriate present.

Thank you, and God's blessings for all of you.

Marjorie Ross

NEWS

New WCC General Secretary

The Rev. Dr. Sam Kobia, currently WCC special representative for Africa, has been elected as the new general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Kobia will succeed Rev. Dr Konrad Raiser, and will take office in January 2004.

Thanking the Committee for its confidence in him, Kobia said, "To gain the capacity to inspire the world we need inner strength. Our strength lies also in our unity. As we reiterate that the WCC is first and foremost a fellowship of churches whose primary purpose is to call one another to visible unity in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship, and 'to advance that unity so that the world may believe', we must work together and be seen to be working together."

He concluded with an African saying: "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to go far, walk together with others."

> *"If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to go far, walk together with others."*

Verdict In the Case of Graham Staines

September 22, 2003—The National Council of Churches in India hails the verdict on the case of Graham Staines as the Court has pronounced death sentence to the prime accused Dara Singh and life imprisonment to twelve others who carried out the gory cold-blooded murder of the Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons on the chilly night of 22nd January, 1999 at Manoharpur in Orissa. They were burnt alive while they were sleeping inside their vehicle. Though the verdict has come much delayed, amidst topsy-turvy twists in the case, the culprits have been brought to book at last!

We appreciate the judiciary of our nation for its prophetic and challenging role in the recent past. Though in the Christian spirit, Ms. Gladys Staines, wife of the late Graham Staines, had sought God's forgiveness for all those who had killed her husband, the judiciary system has honoured her broadmindedness and forgiving heart by punishing the culprits. This judgement has definitely got its innate long range implications in curbing the growing religious fanaticism, as Dara Singh is in fact a creation of the hate campaign in this country by the fundamentalist forces. We appeal to all such forces to desist from this sort of communal activities that perpetuate disharmony and violence in the nation. We continue to uphold our trust and faith in the judiciary of our nation.

Ipe Joseph (Rev. Dr.), General Secretary, National Council of Churches in India

David Smith to Leave Evangel Hall

Dear friend and colleague, It is with mixed feelings that I have to tell you about my upcoming departure from Evangel Hall.

After much soul searching, I have decided to accept an invitation to become the Executive Director of the Scott Mission as of January 1, 2004. The Hall has been so much a part of me for the past nine years that I find myself surprised to

be moving on! But, after months of reflection, I now believe that God has other things in mind for me. I believe that the new building project is in good hands, and I believe that the Hall is in good hands.

Effective January 1, our Director of Program, Helen Smith, will be interim ED while the Board searches for my replacement. Cindy Choi (now Mrs. Cindy Han), our Director of Development, will be there to assist Helen with the transition.

It would be impossible for me to adequately express my feelings of humble gratitude for the infinite number of blessings that I have received at the Hall over so many years.

David J. Smith, Executive Director,
Evangel Hall

Have you come a long way, baby?!

Navy's First Warfare Qualified Woman Promoted to Admiral

The U.S. Navy marks a history making milestone as Rear Adm. Deborah A. Loewer, USN, is recognized as the service's first warfare qualified woman to be promoted to admiral. The promotion, which became official on October. 1, was formally recognized during a pinning ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, VA, on October 31.

Loewer is the vice commander of the Navy's Military Sealift Command, headquartered in Washington, D.C. She is second in command of a global transportation agency with a workforce of more than 8,000 and a fleet of more than 120 active ships whose primary mission is to move U.S. military cargo for deployed U.S. forces in times of war and other national crises.

Rear Adm. Loewer's selection to flag rank is the culmination of nearly 27 years of impressive leadership experience at sea and ashore, as well as several pioneering inroads into a traditionally male dominated Navy career field, that of Surface Warfare Officers. She commanded Navy ships at sea and served in top military assignments at the White House Situation Room, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Rear Adm. Loewer's career began in the mid 1970s at a time when women were barred by law from serving aboard Navy ships. Since then, she has accumulated several record breaking firsts for female and male naval officers alike, beginning with her graduation as the top female student at the male-dominated Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I.

SHOES FROM HEAVEN

Are you looking for ideas in teaching Bible truths to children or young teens? This 86-page book of Bible-based stories, visuals, surprise features, musical items, contests, puzzles, etc. will be of great help to you. Also included are valuable teaching tips.

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Burlington, ON L7M 4G8

(Please mention where you saw this ad.)

In the Society

Synodical

Every year women gather for the Saskatchewan Core Committee (Synodical) annual camp at Christopher Lake.

Women from other denominations also come to enjoy the fun. Moira Brownlee even travels back from Calgary.

The theme this year was *This is My Father's World*. Donna Wilkinson talked about her trip to Australia, and Bev Shepansky told about her trip to China and Korea. A variety of women shared their life stories about how God has been important in their world.

Rev. Catherine Dorcas played her guitar late into the night as long as songs were requested. She is the faithful minister that attends each year and serves communion at Sunday worship. She has such interesting stories to tell that give a powerful message to take home. Our Saturday night skits have us roaring with laughter.

The poem below was used to report on the camp to the WMS Fall Rally.

Saskatchewan WMS Women's Camp
September 5 - 7, 2003
Theme: "This is My Father's World"

Come one, come all to our wonderful ladies camp.
Go down the hill and up the ramp,
To the great get-away at Christopher Lake.
Enjoy sampling the great variety that others take,
For the pot luck supper on Friday night.
And the bountiful breakfasts started at first light.
For years and years registrations Irene took
Then off to the store to buy the food we all help cook.
Laughing, hugging, eating, singing, worshipping, eating,
canoeing, crafting, eating, singing, laughing, crying, hugging,
listening to jokes and travel adventures and more singing.
The rafters are raised with laughter on Saturday night,
With our talents we share under the spotlight.
Once a year two special songs we sing
As Catherine plays the guitar she brings.
Grandfather's clock for Catherine, and you have to come to hear
Why the pajama song for Alice even when she's not there.
As candles floated in a water cross Donna dug on the beach
Tears flow freely as prayers were lifted by each.
Some for ladies who could not attend
Some for hearts and souls on the mend.
Out of her wheel chair Marg did go
Down to the campfire in a wheelbarrow so slow.
Laughter across the water did ring
So the Lutherans could hear the songs we sing.
Sunday worship is special each year.
Catherine a story to share we all love to hear.
This year about three little boys and a kind man
With three red marbles under his hand.

After communion a red marble was given
to each of us
To remind us of the message of being generous.
Helen then led us in an Aboriginal closing
with a circle of hugs
From old and new friends who forever on
our heart strings tug.
Laughing we gather for the group picture
each year
Overflowing with memories so dear.

Diana Sinden, Beatty, SK

Presbyterial

West Toronto Presbyterial Fall Rally was held in Patterson church on October 18, 2003. Eleanor Dean welcomed everyone, as Presbyterial President, and as WMS President of the host church.

Devotions on the theme of thankfulness were led by women from Bonar-Parkdale. A special duet from the treasurer's children, Amy and Ricardo Ramnarine was enjoyed. Literature Secretary Betty Stainton introduced some new books, and invited everyone to review the book display afterwards.

Synodical of Saskatchewan women sing around their annual camp fire.

Lit candles floating in a water cross dug into the beach symbolized prayers for women not at the Saskatchewan Presbyterial Ladies Camp.

Following a short business meeting and the treasurer's report, Carolyn Jones introduced speaker Ruth Ann Semple from Boarding House Ministries.

Ruth Ann gave a history of the mission and led in singing some of the hymns and praise songs used in the boarding homes. Comments of the residents and stories of experiences of the volunteers were interesting and moving. This ministry is growing quickly and needs new volunteers as well as prayer support.

Lynda Reid, left with Wilma Welsh and Kathleen McGillivray at the "fall fling" for Waterloon-Wellington Presbyterial at the Lutheran Camp and Conference Centre at Eden Mills, ON.

Barrie Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at Essa Road Church, Barrie on October 8, 2003. President Evelyn Horne constituted the meeting. Greetings were extended by Rev. Tom Cunningham and local group president June Campbell. Rev. Lynda Reid brought greetings and a report from Regional Staff.

The theme was *Here I am. Send me.* Isaiah 6:8b was incorporated into the devotions presented by the Stroud WMS. Some business was conducted followed by a prayer for missions led by Jean Troop.

The morning speaker was Fredy Rodriguez Hernandez, program coordinator at the Christian Center for Reflection and Dialogue, Cardenas, Cuba. Fredy spoke about the Center's various training and community development programs. Small groups formed for the bible study "Blessed to be a Blessing."

After a delicious lunch, June Campbell led in a singalong. Hilda Briggs reviewed books from the book table.

The afternoon speaker was Rev. Christopher Jorna, Guyana. Chris provided, verbally and with slides, much valuable information about the country, the churches and the people. He requested prayers for the ordained and lay ministry, the college and the abused Guyanese women. Courtesies were extended by Susan Patton.

Rev. Tom Cunningham conducted the communion service.

During the weekend of October 3 and 4 the **Oak Ridges** Presbyterial, instead of holding their traditional fall meeting, organized an "autumn escape" for all Presbyterian women in the area. It was an outstanding success. About 35 women gathered at Jackson's Point at the Salvation Army Conference Centre.

On Friday evening, Area Consultant Lynda Reid, guided us through a series of energetic "getting acquainted" games, and then conducted an inspiring opening worship service. On Saturday Lynda led us in two bible studies based on "women of the Bible." The first study dealt with the Samaritan woman (the woman at the well) who was the heroine (we concluded) of the story in John 4:6-42.

Lynda's second study focused on Mary, the mother of Jesus. After each lesson we met in smaller groups to discuss a series of questions that Lynda had prepared to search out the deeper meanings in the scriptures and help us understand our own responses to them.

Crafts, book reviews, snacking, hymn singing, announcements, friendly chatting with new friends, and business reports occupied the times between studies.

The retreat ended at about 7:00 on Saturday evening with a beautiful communion service. We owe sincere thanks to our inspiring leader, Lynda Reid; to our innovative president, Mary Foster; to all the members of the executive committee for their planning; to Darla Maiuri our stretch and exercise leader and to Maggie Dickson, our incomparable pianist.

Every woman who took part vowed that we must make the fall retreat an annual tradition.

Monkton WMS hosted the fall rally of **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial when 75 women registered. They were welcomed by Knox WMS president, Elizabeth Stewart and the minister, Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee.

Ina McMillan, 1st vice-president, presided for the day's activities. Rev. Ann Yee-Hibbs, Area Education Consultant, gave an excellent explanation of the new study on the Bhil Peoples of India. She was thanked by Bernice Richards, Stratford. Lois Horne, North Easthope reviewed several books that were available from The Book Room in Toronto.

Elizabeth Stewart gave the Presbyterial Treasurer's report. Lois Robinson and Marian Whitfield of Listowel Britton WMS gave the devotions using scripture from Isaiah and a meditation from Gwyneth Whilsmith's book, *I Know God's in Here Somewhere."*

Jean Sangster, Bayfield reported on the " Pennies for Patrick" project. Enough money was donated to send him home for a visit with his family in Malawi and give him $800 for personal use and to help with his education in Toronto. Patrick is a minister in Malawi taking a four-year course in Toronto.

Shirley Aitcheson, Stratford, and Eunice Bisset, Goderich conducted a hymn-sing before lunch.

Following a delicious lunch of beef stew and dumplings, salad and dessert, Jean Edmunds, Mitchell, introduced Rev. Sarah Kim, who spoke on her trip to a Jubilee gathering in Nigeria, and on her work as Executive Secretary of the WMS. In her comments she said the bulk of the Christians in Nigeria live in the south part of the country and the north is mainly Muslim.

The offering was received by Yvonne Knight and Eleanor Stevenson, Cranbrook.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent quilting the three quilts which had been made from a twelve-inch block from each group.

Mission Groups of **Peterborough & Lindsay** Presbyterial celebrated Autumn with an adventure to Elim Lodge on Pigeon Lake. Saturday, September 20th, 2003 found more than eighty women gathered to enjoy Elim's hospitality and scenery. They came from Bowmanville to Colborne in the south, to Kirkfield and Lakehurst in the North to reflect on our mission partnership with the Church of North India.

The "Autumn Adventure" program committee from Lindsay and Port Hope, introduced this year's Study written by Anne Saunders. "Making Connections-the Bhil People of India" and its companion study for youth provided craft ideas. Everyone experimented with bead work, or creating lotus flowers or flower leis.

A presentation by the Rev. Ann Blane augmented the materials in the study. Her overview of the Bhil Mission Field-its beginnings, its development and its present 100th anniversary celebrations was appreciated. She emphasized the gratefulness of the Bhil people to the Canadian Presbyterian workers who established both hospitals educational facilities, and provided training. She also included colourful artefacts, pictures, and reminiscences of her childhood Bhil friends.

The offering received will help support training enough health care workers to serve 30 more villages in this rural area in Bophal Province in Madhya Pradesh State, India.

The closing worship service celebrated the contributions of all our Presbyterian workers beginning with Dr. John Buchanan in 1888 to the present.

God's Purpose and our Response was the theme for the **Maitland** Presbyterial Fall

Rally held in Brussels Presbyterian Church on September 29.

A delicious meal prepared and served by the Brussels WMS was enjoyed by 85 women.

President Marilyn MacIntyre welcomed us and asked that we remember Marjorie Deyell and her family in the passing of her son.

A musical interpretation of "Shine, Jesus, Shine" was presented by the Brussels Junior Choir.

The Lucknow WMS led worship with the reading of Acts 16:13-15 sharing the story of Lydia, a seller of purple cloth in the city of Thyatira. Lydia was an enterprising woman who followed God's leadership. Her obedience led her to the right place where God could meet her and use her in a powerful way. Thank God for all the "rights" in your life and ask God for help in changing direction when you need to.

Shirley McCall of Kincardine introduced our speaker Lillian Sparling of Staffa; she has taught English and Bible knowledge to the children of Bandawi, Malawi. Bandawi is a very poor rural community. The Malawians believe that the future lies with the women and education since it is the women who teach the children.

Agnes Bregman gave courtesy remarks and Kinlough WMS closed with prayer.

The group pictured below is celebrating the 60th anniversary of Camp Kannawin, Sylvan Lake, Alberta. The camp was started by WMS members and the first camp was directed by Dr. Ruby Walker.

WMS members are in the first two rows. They continue to support the camp through prayer, financial help, representation on the camp committee and volunteering during the summer. The pennants have names of people who have given hours of their time as volunteers.

Local

On September 28th, 2003, the Women's Missionary Society of the **Chinese Presbyterian Church in Montreal** celebrated their 90th anniversary. A

Service of Thanksgiving was held in the afternoon with members of the congregation and guests. The theme of the service was Shine for Jesus and everyone attending was given a little gold lamp.

Gwendolin Lam, part-time minister at the Chinese Presbyterian Church, preached the sermon and Kim Hum, president of the WMS, gave a history of the Society. Genevieve Holding, president of Montreal presbyterial brought greetings and congratulated the group on their faithful service.

After the service, members of the congregation and friends joined the members of the WMS (with a membership of 60) for a celebration dinner at the Poon Kai restaurant. An interesting point mentioned in Kim's history was that in 1925, when the Chinese Church voted to go into church union, their WMS made the decision to remain Presbyterian and their WMS group formed the nucleus of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Montreal.

為主發光 為主發光

A Tribute for Grace (Smith) Jermey

In Oro Township Grace was born,
A country girl was she.
To rural school and high school next
Then on to U. of T.

A high school teacher she became.
At Creemore High she taught.
But then to Grant she soon was wed -
A diff'rent life her lot.

Left to right: back row - Anita and Barry Mack, Gwendolin Lam, Grace Thronley Brown, Lois Klempa; front - Alberta Abbot, Kim Hum, Genevieve Holding, Druse Bryan.

Two girls, one boy were born to them.
Fine Ayrshires they did raise.
Then later came grandchildren three.
To Grace they all gave praise.

At Sunday School for many years
Grace taught the children there.
And many offices Grace held
In WMS with care.
In Presbyterial (Barrie) Grace did help
As secretary for years three.
Then Grace and Grant took trips afar
And other lands did see.

This year she's been our treasurer.
The money she did bank.
And now that she has left us all
We know she holds top rank.

Lois Cullis, Secretary
Esson-Oro WMS

The WMS of **Lucknow** presented an Honorary membership to **Maudie Fisher**. Maudie has been a faithful member since 1947. She had been an Historian until 2001 when she retired. Congratulations, Maudie!

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Thank you to the Glad Tidings secretaries/contact persons for returning the subscription lists in good time.

This year we requested that the Glad Tidings secretary send only one cheque to cover the costs for all subscribers. However there were several groups that sent more than one; in one case there were 11 cheques. It is understandable if someone is late paying, but this adds more work to the bookkeeping. Also, when a group has subscribers who receive large print and/or cassette tapes, it is easier when there is only one cheque involved.

In looking over the lists, a few names and addresses were noted as incorrect. When you receive the magazine, please check that your name and address are correct (make sure there is a box number or street address). The Canada Post database refuses addresses that are incorrect or incomplete. If you notice an error, please let us know immediately rather than wait until next fall when the new subscription lists are received in the office. For example, there were a few subscribers whose names were incorrectly spelled.

It is never too late to subscribe to the Glad Tidings. If during the year someone wishes to subscribe, just send in their name and address and we will add their name(s) to the list. We will also send these new subscribers back issues of the magazine if requested.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Margaret Borthwick
Central, Brantford, ON

Beatrice Flynn
Knox, Dundas, ON (not Goderich)
(mother of Vice-President Margaret McGillivray)

Marjorie Helena Williamson
St. Andrew's, Guelph, ON

Mary James
St. Columba, Hamilton, ON

Grace Jermey
Hawkestone, ON

Mrs. Margery MacGregor
Mary McFarlane
St. Andrew's, Kingston, ON

Mrs. Olive Kelly
Mrs/. Kathleen Sleeman
St. Paul's, Port Hope, ON

Marilla Anna Allen
Laurel-Lea, St. Matthews, Sarnia
(Mother of Dr. Rick Allen, Kenya)

Agnes Roy
Calvin, Toronto, ON

Apologies: In the Nov/Dec 2003 issue I mistakenly placed the name of Maudie Fisher, Lucknow, ON in A"In Remembrance."

Maudie is "alive and well." See notice under "Local" news p 45.

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Administrative Assistant & Circulation Manager
Katherine Allen

Perceptions of Redness

There you are
You cardinal
In your beautiful redness
Swooping motion in your flight
From tree to tree.
But, where did you go?
I hear your unique call
But you are deep within
Your inner sanctum
Hidden among leaves of the tree.

There you are
You raspberry
I perceived your redness
Out of the corner of my eye.
I know you are there,
But under which leaf?
Ah! Now I've got you!
Yum!

There you are
You ripe, small tomato
I caught a glimpse of you
Earlier today
But where are you now?
Did I imagine your ripeness?
No, I see you
As I gently lift and lay aside
The leaves
That protect you from my picking.
But, after all,
To this end you were born.

There you are
Dear love of God.
If I look,
Perceive with my inner eye
And persist in laying aside
The barriers
I find vibrant redness
Of vitality.
Life lived in You
Expression of Your creation,
Your wondrous world
Not hidden but blazing forth
In love.

June Campbell

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on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

Inside: Easter Worship
God Answers Prayer

Glad Tidings

March/April 2004

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Cover Photo: Stewart Folster leading smudging ceremony by L. June Stevenson (See page 45)

Glad Tidings

March/April 2004
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EDITOR
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

Where once those feet in triumph trod along the dusty path to Jerusalem, the olive now is bent and bruised. The rocky land is scarred with blood; the ancient buildings riddled with bullet holes. The beasts of burden shy amidst the shouting and the shooting, their burdens scattered.

Your time was right, dear Lord. You rode into the city amidst the shouts of "Hosanna! Hosanna!" That day it was your city, your land. Today the land that gave you birth is strewn with the garments of the dead, the dying, the refugee and the prisoner. The streets of Bethlehem ring hollow. The sounds of mothers weeping over their lost children is heard, like the voice of your mother, Mary weeping softly beneath the cross. The sky is dark, but once again the brilliance of a new day is born. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed!

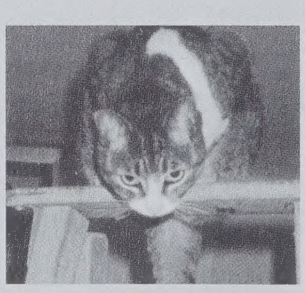
Be there, dear Lord, this Easter. Walk the streets of the cities and towns that knew your feet so well. Comfort those who mourn; forgive those who plunder the land, and reconcile the people.

Be here, dear Lord; we who look on in silence, can only wonder at the violence in the Middle East. We pray for every person, soldier, rebel, leaders, parents, children and teens; those who minster in healing ways, those who speak in your name. Be with us all in the love that overcame death and suffering, that life might be abundant.

Update on Heidi (See "Rejected by my Cat," pp 3-4, Jan/Feb 04.)

Heidi has remained at home with her mistress, Esther Barnes. While Heidi was hanging around her old neighbourhood, a stray male cat befriended her and they hung out together. Esther's neighbours, Ellen and Doug, have since adopted Prospurro (which they named him). He has made a wonderful addition to their family, which includes another cat, Cobweb. Ellen and Doug are grateful that Heidi's misadventures brought Prospurro to their door!

Ellen says, "Now you have me wondering about the divine purpose in Prospurro's adoption of Doug and then me. I have already decided that Heidi's move to our yard was a path to meeting Prospurro. Partly I think Prospurro is here to give Cobweb some much needed exercise. He also has me trying to be more careful not to drop things on the floor since everything that falls seems to be a potential toy or food in his mind. He is the happiest cat I have ever met, and I hope to learn from him."



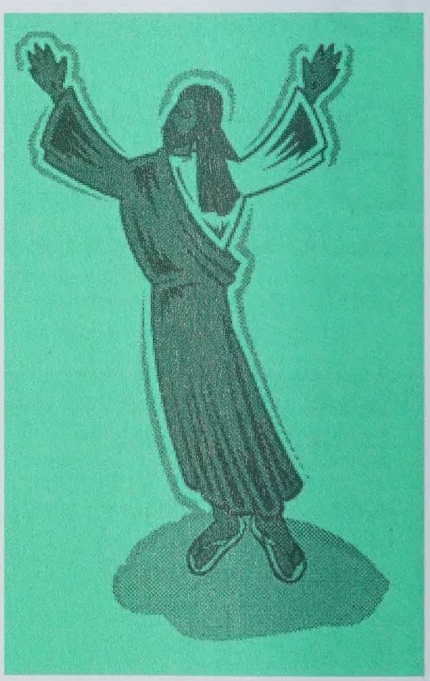
Heidi

Who do you say that I am?

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:13-16

Now archaeologists call Him the ***Beginning***.
Animal scientists call Him the ***Good Shepherd.***
Botanists call Him the ***Tree of Life***.
Carpenters call Him the ***Door.***
Zoologists call Him the ***Lion of the Tribe of Judah.***
Sociologists call Him the ***Love of God.***
Medical doctors call Him the ***Great Physician.***
Photographers call Him the **Image of God**.
Sportsmen call Him the **Strength and Energizer.**
Industrialists call Him the **Great Supplier.**
Lawyers call Him the ***Mediator/Advocate.***
Oceanographers call Him the ***River of Living Waters.***
Horticulturalists call Him the ***First Fruit.***
Transporters call Him the ***Way.***
Administrators call Him the ***Governor.***
Journalists call Him the ***Truth.***
Biologists call Him the ***Life.***
Gardeners call Him the ***Rose of Sharon.***
The government calls Him the ***Supreme Authority***.
Professors call Him the ***Wisdom of God.***
Theologians call Him the ***Baptizer.***
Evangelists call Him the ***Soul-winner.***
Publishers call Him the ***Author.***
Architects call Him the ***Chief Cornerstone.***
Footballers call Him the ***Captain.***
Judges call Him the ***Righteous Judge.***
Electrical engineers call Him the ***Light of the World.***

O my fellow Christians, "Who do you say Jesus is?"



(Dramatic Recitation given by Joy, a CGIT girl in Ohafia, Nigeria.)

Mission trip an 'eye opener'

by Mark Tayti, Tribune staff, Welland

Nancy and Merv Seiber may be back home in their comfortable surroundings, but their minds are still very much in the Third World.

The Seibers returned from Managua, Nicaragua on August 18 with an 11-member group of Christians who had gone to Latin America to build an addition on a small church in a city of two million people.

The mission trip was coordinated through the Presbyterians Aiding Nicaraguans (PAN) organization and involved members of the Kortright Presbyterian Church in Guelph and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Welland. The Seibers were accompanied by Nancy, Dale and Meghan Leslie, Fred Nettle and Carol Bowerman.

The trip was an eye-opener for many of the travellers, who were emotionally moved by the level of poverty that met them at every turn.

Merv said the beautiful landscapes were in stark contrast to the urban decay that has resulted from years of political instability. He spoke of "gated" communities and gangs that roamed the city after dark.

"We were never afraid," he said. "We were well cared for by the people."

Nancy said "God's hand" led them every step of the way and it was clear the trip was "His will."

"The people we went to help had been praying for two years for somebody to come. We were the answer to their prayers."

St. Andrew's, Welland team ready to go! Left to right: Nancy Seiber, Carol Bowerman, Merv Seiber, Nancy Leslie, Dale Leslie, Meghan Leslie, Fred Nettle.

The team raised $9,000 to renovate the church building and carry out other mission projects. Each member also paid his/her own way to Nicaragua.

"We managed to purchase $60,000 worth of medical supplies to bring with us," Nancy said, adding that medicines were purchased from a pharmaceutical clearing house in Mississauga for about $1,600.

The team also brought 11 hockey bags full of used clothing and sundry items that were donated by local businesses for the trip.

The couple said the trip took two years of planning, numerous fundraisers; but it was such a rewarding experience that they plan to do it again in 2005.

"The country has no social safety net," Merv said. "These people receive no help unless it comes from outside the country."

Nancy said the mission participants were deeply touched by the love that was shown by the people they went to help. They were equally impressed by the amount of faith the Nicaraguans have.

"The trip definitely stretched us as Christians," she said. "We went down there to help but we came back on the receiving end."

Reprinted with permission.

THE STAR

In the heavens
the sound of song, high and clear
one holy star blazes bright.

In a stable
shepherds, sages, beast
watch over a cradled Child.

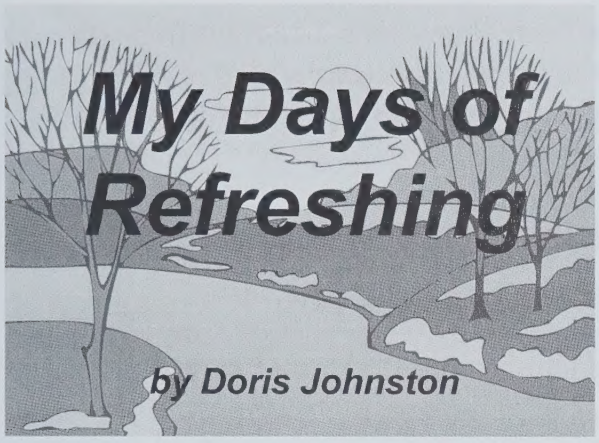
In a street
branches and hands wave
crescendos greet a celebrated King.

On a hill
soldiers scoff, women wail
daylight is extinquished.

Then the news ...

In my heart
the flutter of faith, now flying
stars appear in my eyes.
Hosanna !

Joan Bond



What does refreshing mean to you? To some it might mean a cold drink of water after a long walk or a swim on a hot day, and to others a cup of tea with a good book and a comfortable chair.

To me it is having time to absorb nature and all its beauty without any distractions. This year for the first time I spent a week at the cottage alone.

There was no ringing telephone, no television with blaring commercials and no newspaper unless I chose to pick one up in town. I didn't.

I had a wonderful holiday. I planted annuals, and I weeded perennials. I caught up on my neglected correspondence and I wrote poetry. I watched the sunset, God's peace to me, and I relaxed.

I went to bed when I was tired and got up when I awoke, usually with the birds. At the cottage where there are many trees, there are also many birds. They start their calling around four-thirty in the morning. I didn't think of it as bird song; it was more of a discordant overture.

Whether they were communicating with each other or bidding the world good morning, I don't know. But it wasn't singing. That came about an hour later—hallelujahs—beautiful praises to their Maker and God's gift to me. I rejoiced in this day that the Lord had made.

Maybe song birds don't waken as early as the noisy birds, like mourning doves and blue jays or even woodpeckers, whose steady rat-tat-tat woke even the soundest of sleepers. Once, grandson Ryan who often spends time with me, told me he thought the birds woke us up then went back to sleep again. I wouldn't be surprised. I knew that by ten o'clock they would all be quiet.

I had my first coffee of the day on the deck. Here I could feel the fresh breezes from the lake and sort out the sweet smells. Cedar was the most predominant, choke cherry blossoms whose tangy scent was unlike any other, grass that had been cut the night before and clover from the farmer's field, all vied for recognition. I savoured them, and thought how lucky I was. All nature was mine and I hadn't paid a cent. God's love for me made manifest.

> All nature was mine: God's love for me made manifest!

Serenity, no squealing brakes, no rumbling trucks, no bang-crash of garbage cans. Peace soaked into my innermost being. I was contented and stress free.

Far over the lake I watched a storm coming in. The breeze was stronger and turned the aspen leaves over and bent the long grass before it.

(continued on page 26)

(Leaders: Please prepare well in advance. Note that scented candles and spices are recommended. You may choose not to use them since many people have allergies. The potpourri sachets or spiced teas may be appropriate to pass around.)

An Easter Worship Service

The Spice of NEW LIFE!

by Patricia Elford

Worshippers gather in dimly-lit room. Pianist plays medley of hymns softly.
SILENCE. Outside, solo begins or pianist plays softly hymn 142 (1997) I wonder as I wander vs. 1 (OR 122 (1997)/116 (1972) Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel vs. 6.) If accompanied, one flute/alto recorder.

Prayer
Speaker 1: Let us pray:
God of All,
You give us life and light and a world to enjoy.
We squander life, darken the light, and, each in our own way, pollute the world. We confess to You how we've misused our lives, your people, and your world. Hear our silent prayers.
(silent prayer...)
Forgive us, not because we deserve it, but because Jesus died on the cross to earn it, for us.
All: In Jesus' name. Amen.

Speaker 1: As forgiven people, we needn't fear the light. (Lights large candle.)
Jesus, the Light, shines in the darkness.[1]

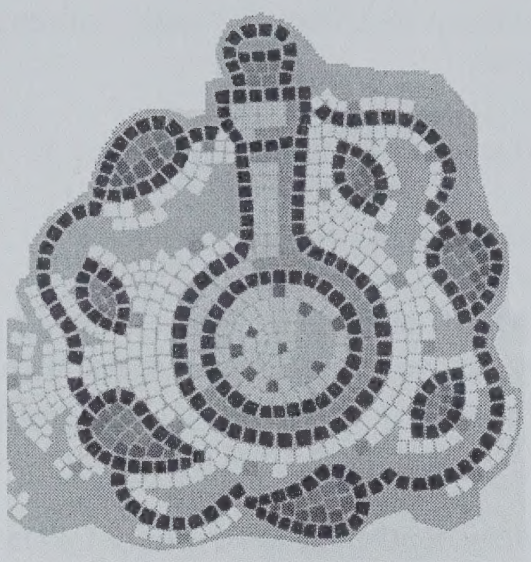
Hymn: 171 (1997) vs. 1 The people that in darkness pined

Speaker 2: Wise men from the East brought precious frankincense and myrrh, honouring Jesus, young king of the Jews. They found him with mother Mary. The aroma of their gifts was bittersweet. [2]

Hymn: 148 (1972) vs. 5 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Speaker 3: While Jesus visited Lazarus, in Bethany ~ Mary broke open an alabaster jar of nard, a king's perfume.[3] She poured the ointment over Jesus' head.

Speaker 4: Jesus praised her for the anointing ~ she'd prepared his body in advance for its burial The fragrance of love's generous outpouring filled the house. [4]



Speaker 5: I remember it differently. When Jesus visited Simon, the Pharisee, no one had anointed Jesus' head. No one had washed Jesus' feet! Then, a woman with quite a reputation, gate-crashed and broke open the nard ointment. She washed Jesus' feet with her tears and nard, kissing his feet and drying them with her scandalously loosened hair. [5]

Speaker 3: Each time, a woman gave the very best she could, to show love for Jesus.

Speaker 2: There was the horrible time when Jesus was offered bitter myrrh, mixed in wine. To mock him? To numb his pain? No one really knows. [6]

Speaker 4: By then, He'd been betrayed. Recognized as an increasing threat by the powerful, Jesus was crucified after an unfair trial. "King of the Jews" was written above his head, but he was dying a criminal's death.

Speaker 1: Jesus died. It was finished. The Light of the World was gone. (Slowly snuffs out white candle.) [SILENCE - brief silent prayer]

Soloist: 142 (1997) I wonder as I wander vs. 1 or speaker reads verse as pianist plays softly.

Speaker 2: Again, spices, in love, to honour Jesus: Nicodemus brought a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes. He and Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus' body in layers of spices and linen; the Jewish burial custom. They laid him in a new garden tomb.[7]

Speaker 3: The women observed Jesus' resting place. Then, at home, they prepared spices before the Sabbath began.[8]

Speaker 4: Usually, the Sabbath was a wonderful day. That Sabbath never seemed to end!

Speaker 5: Now, it's early dawn on the first day of the week. (Increase light slightly.)

Look! There are Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary, the mother of James, and others. (Women rush towards "tomb," spices in baskets. Movement wafts scents to worshippers.)

Mary Magdalene (stooping, peering "into" tomb opening): Where is Jesus?

Joanna: His body is gone!

VOICE of Man in White: Why do you look for the living among the dead? (The women, terrified, staring at tomb, fall on their knees.)

VOICE of Man: He is not here, but has risen!

Mary, mother of James: Jesus told us! "The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified." The third day He'll rise again....Today! [9]

Hymn: 258 (1997) 201 (1972) Thine be the glory, vs. 1 (During singing, Speaker 1 relights white candle, then lights all scented [if appropriate] candles.)

Joanna: Jesus is alive! No spices are needed for his dead body! Instead, we celebrate the sweet scent of Christ's victory over death!

(Lights on full!)

Speaker 2: As the music plays, and you pass the baskets, take a sachet. Say to the next person: Christ is risen! That person will reply: Christ is risen indeed. Continue passing until every person is holding spice. (Worshippers pass baskets as if offering plates. Pianist plays Easter hymns.)

Prayer

Speaker 3: Surrounded by the spicy aromas, let us pray responsively:
Creator and Re-creator, thank you!
Thank you for our senses,

All: opening our hearts to your creation:

Speaker 3: The smell of clean laundry, baby powder, wood fires and ginger-snaps.

All: Flowers and bushes and sun-warmed pines.

Speaker 3: Thank you for the slippery grip of a newborn's hand,

All: for renewed health after illness.
Speaker 3: Thank you for springtime sap singing through trees,

All: for new lambs and calves silly-jumping.

Speaker 3: Most of all,

All: Thank you for hope-filled lives, gained through Jesus Christ's resurrection. Amen

Speaker 4: Fragrance permeates God's Word. We hold reminders of spices lovingly prepared for Jesus' body. Another reminder: they weren't needed! As promised, Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

Hymn: 252 (1997) He is Lord or 188 (1972) Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (If able, please stand and remain standing.)

Speaker 5: Keep these sachets. In life, there are unpleasant odours. There are also many marvellous bouquets. Suppose, each time we smell these spices or any pleasant fragrances outside, at home, in stores, we silently thank God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, promise to live with generosity, and look forward in hope. How might our lives change? [Silent meditation]

All: (loudly) Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again! Hallelujah!!

Notes:
A. Room's focal point: Table with white cloth, centre - one large white candle, matches, snuffer, several unlit [scented or not] votive candles, in row/circle. Black paper, irregular, representing burial cave's mouth, on front of cloth. Readers stand behind table but move to ends as women approach "tomb."
B. Flashlights for readers.
C. Hymnbooks bookmarked ahead of time for single verse singing.
B. Sachets fresh-cut balsam branch snippets + Commercial spice packets or bulk potpourri or various spiced-tea bags tied up in net scraps.
C. Baskets: woven plate-holders/sweet-grass baskets.
D. Authentic scents: myrrh, frankincense, cinnamon, aloe.
E. Women with spices: head scarves, long summer skirts, shawls, sandals
F. Prayer: During preparation and service. Give sufficient time for silent prayers.

Scripture (NRSV): 1. John 1:5a 2. Matthew 2:1-11 3. Song of Solomon 1:12 4. John 1 2:3-8 5. Luke 7: 36-47 6. Mark 15:23 7. John 19:28-42 8. Luke 23:55-56 9. Luke 24:5-8

Rev. Patricia Elford lives in Petawawa, Ontario.

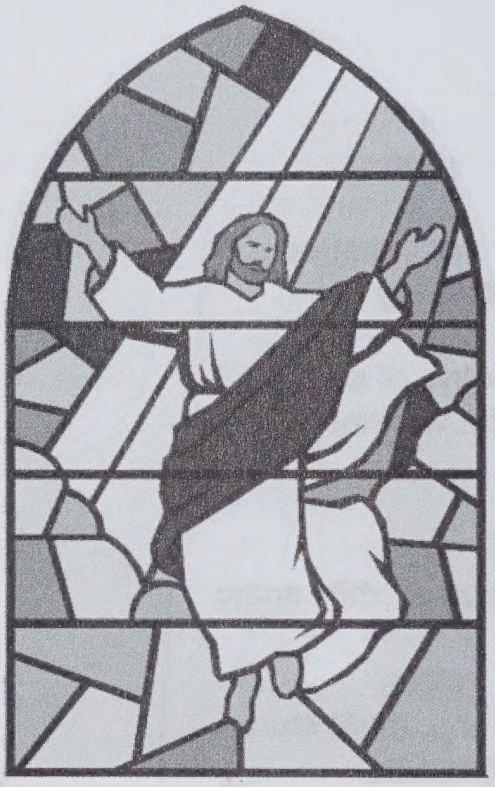
Latecomers: Always Welcome

by David G. Hawkins

In preparation read John 20:1-10

"Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed." (John 20:8 KJV)

To one disciple, then to another, Mary Magdalene brings breathtaking news. Body snatchers! The two men race towards the crime scene. That Peter the Rock is one of them suggests that his rehabilitation (John 18:25-27) has already begun. John pulls ahead and outpaces his companion. John comes first to the tomb. He peeps in. That is as far as he dare go (John 20:5).



Jesus' main man arrives. Eager and impulsive as always, he out-dares John and enters to discover—nothing. Grave clothes, undisturbed, resemble the chrysalis from which a butterfly has emerged. Jesus has left death behind him. Death is not death (John 20:8).

This, the elderly disciple's written recollection gives a theological twist to the ancient fable of the tortoise and the hare.

We are here reminded that Christianity's Good News demands more effort than an amble, a stroll, even a sedate, dignified procession. It needs, at the very least, a brisk apostolic stride.

As he nears his life's end, John assures us that getting off to a "good," early start doesn't guarantee that we shall come in first and win the race. Defining moments, in marriage, family, workplace, as sickness, loss, etc., may tear us apart and take us down more than a spiritual peg or two. Problems cause us to stumble. Others around us use them as stepping stones.

Neither have we read the book nor the journal article, neither is the sermon preached nor the homily given that will hold us up. Neither is there anyone with a beckoning hand nor a welcoming community of faith to show us the way through and forward. Our journey is delayed, even derailed. We lag behind. We fall away. We fall out. We are late.

Yet every day is a beginning and a beginning again. Pray God we discover a family of faith wherein a private decision

("I") becomes public property ("We"). It contains early arrivals, those who have been steadfastly around for years and late arrivals too. It will learn from thought-provoking and chastening premature departures. For this "small c" church is all too human. It is ever on guard against temptations to describe rather than live the Gospel and to experience it as devilishly easy rather than as divinely difficult.

There's likely tension between those behaving like passengers upon a luxury cruise and others similar to a fishing boat's crew. Together we wisely apply Christianity's paradox, penned by George Matheson, "Make me a captive Lord, and then I shall be free."

This space, God's place, has the tools: the textbook, sacrament, prayer, the work and extemporaneous sharing among a community.

To those who arrive late, he never says, "Latecomers will not be seated."

Rev. David G. Hawkins is an Anglican priest from Vancouver, BC.

April Snowfall

Expecting more green
patches on mottled lawn

Expecting warmer temperatures
and less clothing to carry

Expecting longer days of sun
light and less winter weariness

I awake to this…
this morning filled
with the wide silence of white snow.

I gather up all my fretting
(over more shovelling, more stuck
cars, more hallway mess)

and let it fall, melt
God teaching me to be still
in every season.

Joan Bond

Divi-Divi: Going Where God Leads

by Ken Stright

Bom Bini! That's Papiamento for Welcome! So that means we're on the island of Curaçao, home of an amazing tree.

Look at the Divi-Divi tree. Let your eye move from the trunk to the branches as they run parallel to the ground always reaching in the direction the wind blows.

The divi-divi tree had been chosen as the symbol for the Young Adults in Mission—YAM Work camp 2003 on the island of Curaçao, tucked off the coast of Venezuela, in the Netherlands Antilles. The tree once grew plentifully across the island. Its unique shape is caused by the trade winds that blow constantly from the same direction. Wherever you happen to be, this tree will indicate the direction. The Spirit of God blows where God wills (John 3:8), but directs, inspires us and offers vision and then integrates the journey. The theme 'Going where God leads' had been inspired both by the scripture and the symbol.

For three weeks in July, 2003 29 participants from 13 CANACOM (Caribbean and North America Council for Mission) member churches and five international partners from CWM (Conference for World Mission) came together with a dozen leaders and local support personnel to study, pray, worship, reflect, live and work—together.

Participants Michael Verwey from British Columbia and Reuben St. Louis from Ontario joined leader Ken Stright from Nova Scotia as the contingent from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Our denomination has always supported the efforts of CANACOM and the president (retiring) chair of the organization is Marjorie Ross.

One of the main outreach programs of CANACOM is to organize a Young Adult work camp every three years. The last camp (2000) was in Nova Scotia. That's where I first became aware of the program

Above: Back row left to right Michelle, Reuben, Martha and Ken with other NA participants. Picture right: Divi-divi tree with August Winter , Curacao, and Verna Cassals, CANACOM.

and the wonderful opportunity it provided by bringing all the diversity of the Caribbean and North America plus representatives from around the world to my backyard in little Pictou, Nova Scotia. I was one of a number of host congregations selected to offer work projects to the participants. I was also asked to address the camp on the topic of the diversity of backgrounds in Atlantic Canada and then I went back to the camp for their open house near the close of camp. It was a powerful experience.

So it was not surprising that I said an immediate 'yes' when asked to join the International Planning Committee organizing the next YAM work camp in 2003. I was busy with the Youth in Mission trip scheduled for Guyana (2002) which was transferred to inner city Toronto. As one experience ended, another unfolded as I flew to Curaçao and entered a whole new world.

Curaçao is breathtaking but not for any of the reasons you'd expect of a tropical paradise. It is dry—so dry that the little vegetation, consisting mostly of a variety of cactus and a host of thorn trees, looked as if they were crying out for water. The colours of the city of Williamstad, the amazing beaches, the rainbow of people and the multitude of languages makes this setting perfect for a gathering as diverse as YAM.

Emaus in Soto became our home. Sister Diana of the order gave a warm welcome and let us begin the process of creating community. That was part of my job—community building. I invited the participants to see themselves as a new community created by God to serve a specific purpose at this time and place. The biblical models of Israel and the church helped us understand that community just doesn't happen. It must be worked at constantly and even when created, a community must be dynamic—ever changing to meet changing circumstances. Community is built through prayer, song, games, conversation, commitment and a purpose that directs and empowers the members to give their best.

The second week of camp was to focus on manual labour. Our work projects brought us together in wonderful ways. Every morning our two teams went off to two sites—one the restoration of a church property for use by the community, while my team went off to Chal Corsten Senior's complex to give a face-lift to the seven duplexes which made up the compound. And we worked! Humid 30+ temperatures sapped strength but not enthusiasm, as we scrubbed and scraped, washed (I hate ammonia!) and then painted, trimmed and cleaned.

Evenings continued the program of learning and introducing and sharing—sometimes into the early hours of the morning. Then the day began again until the projects were done, the work blessed, and God praised.

The final week was one of reflection on what had happened in the camp and preparation for our return home—going where God would lead us next. It is amazing how close a community can knit itself in three weeks. Leave-taking is always hard for me and this was no exception. Convoys headed away from our Retreat Centre at Emaus toward the waiting airport. I had time to give thanks to God for the opportunity to be part of something as life changing as YAM 2003. I thought of

Michelle and Reuben and how they used their unique talents to transform their situations and add such flavour to the life of the camp.

Every participant and leader now wears a friendship bracelet provided by Michelle and used in our closing worship as a reminder of the cords of love that bind us together. Michelle always had the insightful questions (speak louder Michelle! Speak slower Michelle!) which helped us focus on our true meaning and purpose.

And then there was Reuben, guitar always in hand, ready to support the song leader and, when Joel was called back to Trinidad, Reuben simply moved in to the position and offered wonderful leadership, sharing old favourites and revamped versions of North American energizers.

Everyone offered what he/she had, and together, each contributing and each receiving, we became the body of Christ in that place. We've now returned home but we are still young adults in mission, still called by Christ into our communities and countries and churches and congregations, still empowered by the Spirit to be a living witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

One of the new songs Reuben taught the work camp is from a Canadian Presbyterian minister, Ted Creen: "Lead me Jesus, I will follow, down the dusty pathways, all along the sea. Teach me Jesus to be loving, your disciple I will be."

We are still asking Jesus to lead us. We know the direction. The divi-divi tree has been moulded by the breath of God, the wind and spirit, blowing where God wills. We have reached out for the wind and plan to follow. And we want to encourage you to feel the wind of God today and ask, as did we, where the Spirit wishes to take you. Maybe you'll find your own Curaçao or at least your own divi-divi tree.

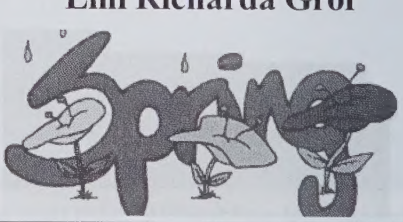
Kenneth Stright was a member of the International Planning Committee (along with Ruth Houtby) and the leader responsible for Community Building at the YAM work camp 2003 on the island of Curaçao.

After the Spring Rain

The old trees
shake with laughter
when the birds sing,
competing with their
friends' ditties
and when the children
and cheeky chipmunks
play hide and seek
behind their sturdy trunks,
and the blossoming scrubs.

The rain-washed windows
wink at the sun
in secret understanding.
when the sun beams
unexpected bright smiles
over the rain-soaked landscape,
then plays hide and seek
behind minor clouds
as if taking them seriously
when they try
to throw dark shadows
on this perfect spring day.

Lini Richarda Grol



God Answers Prayer

by Elaine Inglls Hogg

***And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:19**

I was born just after the war was over on Grand Manan Island, a small island in the middle of the Bay of Fundy. Unlike his three older brothers and the male generations before him, my dad became violently sick every time he went on the ocean so he had to find another way to support his family.

Our home was a humble four-room house by the side of the road. My father bought it from his brother and moved in after he married my mother in the summer of 1945. Although we had a big back yard with a magnificent view of the scenic harbour, the front of the house was only a few feet from the road. Later I learned people built their homes this way to shield themselves from some of the wintry blasts blowing off the frigid water.

In the family album there is a faded black and white picture of a tiny baby propped up on pillows. When I asked my mother about the picture, she explained it was the first one she had of me. Apparently I had been so sickly as an infant, that she was convinced I wasn't going to live so she ordered a Brownie camera from the catalogue and took the picture as a keepsake of her baby daughter.

I did make it through my childhood but not without several trips to the family physician.

According to my mother, "The doctor believed my concern was due to my inexperience. You were my first born child." However, by the time I was seven, I had two other brothers and neither of them came down with repeated bouts of listlessness and fever. On my good days, I loved to be outside with my cousins, but more often than not, my energy gave out long before theirs did. I remember one day in particular when we gathered driftwood from the shore and arranged it in the outline of a house, dividing off the kitchen, living room and a bathroom but when it came to the bedrooms, I ran out of energy so I made a pretend bed and went to sleep in it. My cousins became alarmed when they couldn't wake me up and went to find my mother.

Shortly after this my mother was talking to my grandmother. "I've prayed and so far God has brought her out of each illness but now I'm scared. One of these times she's not going to get better. We're going to lose her."

"We have to get her to the mainland, to see a different doctor."

"But how?" my mother asked. "You know James only makes eighteen dollars a week." In the fifties there was no universal medical care or hospitalization in Canada and the closest hospital of any size was a half day trip away by boat. The Grand Manan III sailed to the city on Tuesday and Friday.

"How, how can I go away? The doctor here won't listen to me so why would the doctor's in the city be any better? You know yourself, when she's sick she's very sick but when she gets over it, she looks the picture of health," my mother poured out her concerns.

In the end, my grandmother was able to use the contacts she met through her connections in the Red Cross where she had been an active volunteer for years to arrange financial support that allowed my mother to take me to the city for medical evaluation.

The night was dark when I woke to find the ugly sign at the foot of my bed. A nurse dressed in white and wearing soft-soled shoes had slipped into the room while I slept and hung the "No Breakfast" sign on the end of my crib. I was embarrassed to be put in a crib; I hated it for I hadn't been in a crib since I was two but it was the hospital's standard. I hated this restriction and when I thought no one was looking I pulled the head of my bed up, climbed down, and under, until I was free to roam about the room or look up and down the long hallway.

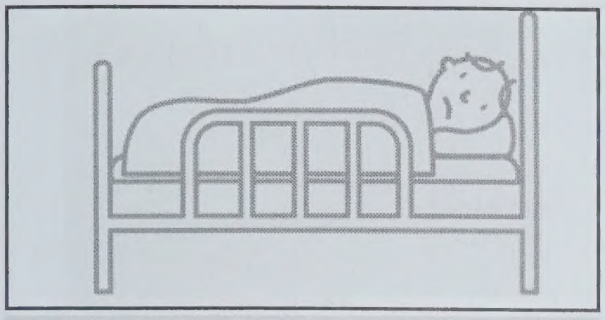
No Breakfast, not *Late Breakfast.* Early in my hospital stay I had learned there was a difference. I began to sob. Tearfully I peeked through the glass that divided my room from the corridor where the night nurse sat at her desk. Late breakfast meant tests or x-rays but no breakfast meant the operating room. I'd been there several times during my stay. No breakfast meant I'd be sick for days. No breakfast meant pain.

I hated the hospital. I'd been admitted on my seventh birthday at a time when the administration believed it was better for

parents to leave their child in the hospital's care. I was met at the admitting office by a white-clad nurse who led me through a maze of green linoleum corridors that reeked of strange smells. Try as I might, I couldn't understand why my mother had handed me over to this person dressed in white to be taken to a cage where prison like bars clanged shut and lifted me to the eighth floor of the General Hospital. As soon as I arrived I began to learn a whole new vocabulary.

Observation: a glass cubicle where uniformed staff looked in at me at any time of day or night. *Thermometer*: a glass rod they put in a place that rhymed with ear. *X-ray*: a huge camera that took pictures of me but I rarely got to see them and when I finally did, they didn't make sense. But the biggest change wasn't the vocabulary; it was the loneliness and the feeling of utter and total abandonment.

Seven, alone for my first time in the city where everything was new, eight story buildings, elevators and so many people milling about. Unlike my island home where I knew everyone, here I knew no one and my parents weren't allowed to visit until Sunday but they wouldn't be



Pediatrics

coming then because the boat didn't sail to the city on Sunday.

I remember watching the clock in the hall: twelve o'clock. I'd never stayed up until twelve before but I couldn't get back to sleep because the tears kept coming. "Anywhere with Jesus I can go to sleep," the words of my favourite song came to my mind. I sang it over and over. Gradually the words took on a new meaning. I wasn't alone, Jesus was with me and anywhere he was, I could safely go. One long sob wracked my body as I pulled the white blankets around me. Softly I kept singing through my pain until I slept.

After weeks of observation and tests, the medical team discovered that a growth was causing kidney damage. Several trips to the operating room and corrective surgery allowed me to continue the pattern I'd been living ever since I was born. Times when I was well I'd spend catching up on my homework and times when I was sick, I'd spend away from my family in a hospital bed in the city.

This continued until I turned fourteen. I remember when I felt the change. By this time, our family had moved to the city and I was visiting with my aunt back on Grand Manan. We were in church and in those days, you prayed on your knees. One after the other the older saints of the church made their petitions known unto God. But I was no longer listening. Just as years before when my cousins and I made our pretend house, I was sound asleep.

When I awoke, I was feverish and in a lot of pain. In the next few weeks, as my health deteriorated it became evident that the kidney the doctors had been striving to save was no longer functioning. It would have to come out. A month after my admission into the Saint John General Hospital, Dr. Morse told me I had a fifty-fifty chance of pulling through the surgery—if I would fight to live.

My surgery was in the third week of September and I don't remember much about the next few weeks. At the time of my operation I'd been in the same room as a cousin of mine, but as one day of pain rolled into another and there was no division between day and night, the staff moved me into a private room.

Sometimes I came to and saw the sun shining over the roofs of the city or heard the click of my mother's high heels as she made her way down the hall from the elevator. On one occasion, I woke to see my dad standing by the door. He looked like he was crying but my eyes wouldn't focus so I couldn't be sure.

"Is she gone?" I heard him whisper to my mother who was standing over me and bathing my brow with a damp face cloth. "No," came the reply, "She's still here. Look at her toes." Apparently wiggling my toes was a habit I'd had since infancy. I'd wiggle them just as I was waking up.

(continued on page 20)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

Security and Vulnerability

The tragic event of September 11, 2001 raised the awareness of human vulnerability. State security was not sufficient to protect vulnerable citizens. We may desire to become invulnerable, but would being invulnerable improve human relationships?

Vulnerability is not merely the opposite of security. It is a fundamental part of being human, since it forms the basis for human interaction. It represents our unique potential to be compassionate, to fulfil the ethical responsibility for fellow human beings and their communities.

The quest for invulnerability can lead to the dehumanising of communities and societies. The invulnerable person would not comprehend the ethical challenge arising from another person's vulnerability. An invulnerable person would be inhuman. We must defend and uphold vulnerability, this paradoxical human worth instead of trying to remove it.

Our security as Christians is in God. He is our refuge and strength amidst conflict and uncertainty. Jesus identified fully with our human vulnerability when he died on the cross. The Bible shows us that God is the God of the weak and the powerless. Therefore, we must seek the well being of our fellow human beings and insist on upholding their rights and dignity. Moreover, we ought to articulate a spirit of reconciliation and peace, based on love for our enemies, who are as vulnerable as we are.

It is Time for Justice! Pray that we may be faithful in accepting our own vulnerability and fulfill our calling to protect the weak and the vulnerable and so provide a measure of human security in this insecure world.

TEXT: Dineke Kraay **EDITING & DESIGN: Gail Turner**

(continued from page 19)

The evening of December 9 my mother kissed me goodnight and whispered her love and a reminder that hundreds of people were praying for me. During the night I had a dream: at first I seemed to be floating away from the people I knew, my family, friends and even the hospital. But then I heard a voice: "Will you go back?"

I was reminded of my father's sad face and my mother's worried looks. I pictured my younger brothers whom I hadn't seen for weeks. "Yes," I whispered. The dream stopped, and I slept through the night. The next morning I was well. I could walk. I was free from pain and I knew God had

(continued on page 26)

The Jesus We Expect and the Jesus Who Comes

by Roberta G. McClelland

One day several people gathered at a bus stop noticed a poster tacked on a tree nearby. In large block letters it posed the question: If Jesus came back to earth today, what form would He take?"

A wealthy businessman spoke up, "He would be powerful. He would come as a trendsetter."

A politician replied, "But Jesus' influence would go beyond trends. I think he would come as a leader of nations."

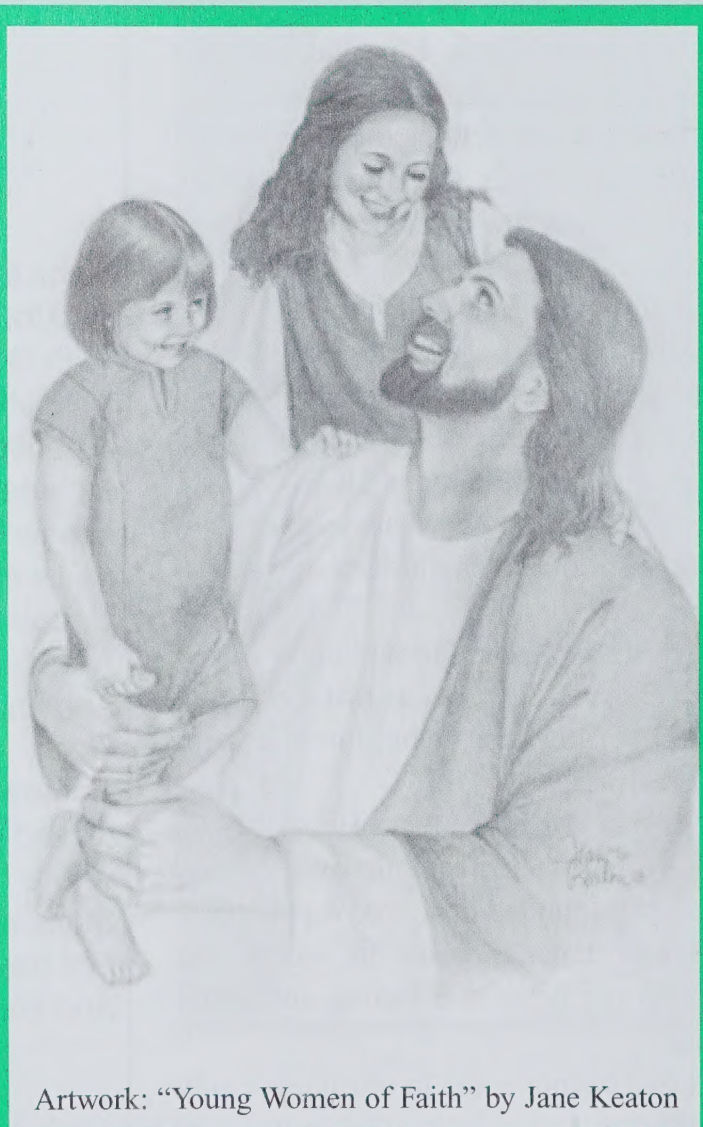
A minister asserted, "But Jesus would be spiritual above all else. He would come as a great preacher."

A lawyer shook his head and said, "You are all wrong. He would come as a judge, and all would tremble before Him."

A doctor then spoke, "Jesus has all of Heaven's power in His hands. He would have to come as a great healer."

Then a soldier came forward. "No," he said, "In a violent world such as ours Jesus would come with only one mission. He would come as a warrior—a destroyer of evil."

Finally a carpenter spoke, "But Jesus loves beauty. Surely He would come as a builder—a creator of new and better things."



Artwork: "Young Women of Faith" by Jane Keaton

They argued for a long time, each believing that their image was the one that Jesus would take if He came to earth that day. How could it be otherwise each thought, shaking heads in frustration at the others' ideas?

Then, almost imperceptibly, from the edge of the group, a young mother with a sick child in her arms spoke.

"He will come as Love.

"As an outsider He will set radical trends, and as a servant He will lead all. Love cannot come in greatness or in fame, because it is created in humility.

"He will come as the smallest and most broken among us. Love cannot come in power, because it is born to serve.

"Through His actions, not His words, He will preach truth. Love does not shout, because its message is made for the quiet language of the heart.

"As a victim He will judge and rule with compassion. Love does not condemn, because its sole mandate is to redeem through forgiveness.

"In His woundedness He will heal. Love does not restore what is broken out of glory, but out of the hidden ache of its own wounds.

"In His weakness He will unmask and conquer evil. Love cannot come in vengeance, because it begins and ends only with peace.

"And in His brokenness He will build up the city of God in our own midst. Love is not founded or forged on the passing things that dazzle in the world, but rather on the great and lasting splendour of God.

"Love cannot come in our image; only in God's.

"So, no matter what our eyes and minds expect to see, it is only our hearts that really know what to look for."

The woman held her child closer.

The bus stop fell silent.

And Jesus came.

Search for God

I took time to search for God
And found some daisies in the lane
With God's footsteps in the sod.
And while I walked in forests green
A gentle wind touched my brow,
It came and went quite unseen,
I knew I had felt the hand of God.
As I walked through the waving grass
Undulating in the breeze, I heard
A lark singing in the trees,
And knew I had heard the voice of God.
Homeward I strolled in the night,
Gazed up high to see the universe where
Stars, moon and planets shine,
Felt the awesomeness of God
And knew I had found God divine.

Grace Hartley

I Am a Woman of Worth

I am a woman of worth.
I have seen the past,
it restrains me not
for I have learned in letting go,
I become strong.
Always moving forward.
I am a woman of worth.

I am a woman of worth.
Beholding all that I am,
I remain undaunted
in the face of fear.
Overcoming every obstacle,
with courage I will stand.
I am a woman of worth.

I am a woman of worth.
The essence of my life
reflects the radiance within.
It ripples over the waters,
imparting beauty
wherever it goes.
I am a woman of worth.

I am a woman of worth.
Tomorrow is my friend,
my all abiding confidante
I behold its unfolding plan,
its journey bids me come
embracing all that awaits.
I am a woman of worth.

I am a woman of worth.
With wings to fly
throughout the boundless sky,
free to sing this joyous song.
My unwavering refrain
echoes from heaven above.
I am a woman of worth.

Darlene E. Lajeunesse

Scissor cutting by Lini R. Grol

KNITTING MATTERS

A reminder that synodicals have agreed to take over the mailing of knitted goods overseas. Contact your synodical president for information about knitting and mailing.

PATCHWORK BLANKET

Double knitting yarn in various colours.
Size 3.75 or 4 mm knitting needles.

Small blanket - cast on 150 sts = 5 squares
Larger blanket - cast on 180 sts = 6 squares

Using stocking stitch, work across all stitches, changing colours every 30 stitches and twisting yarn between squares.
Work approximately 38 rows, or until patches are square, then change on the knit row to other colours.
Repeat until there are 7 rows of squares. Cast off.

BABY TOQUE PATTERN

Small / Medium / Large
Hat to fit head size: 20 ins./ 21 ins./ 22 ins. (51 cm./ 54 cm./ 58 cm.
Knitting Worsted (50 gm)

Colour B (main colour)	2 balls	2 balls	2 balls
Colour A	1 ball	1 ball	1 ball

Two 4 mm. (U.S. 6) and two 4½ mm (U.S. 7) knitting needles.
The instructions are written for smallest size. If changes are necessary for larger sizes the instructions will be written thus: ( ).

With B and 4 mm needles cast on 91 (95, (101) sts.
1st row: (Right side) K1*P1.K1. Repeat from * to end of row.
2nd row: With B, P1, *K1,P1. Repeat from * to end of row.
3rd row: With A, as 1st row.
4th row: With A, as 2nd row.
5th row: With B, as 1st row.
6th row: With B, as 2nd row.
Repeat last 4 rows 3 times more.

Medium size only: With B, work 2 rows ribbing (P1 K1) increasing 1 st. in centre of last row. 96 sts. on needle.

Large size only: With B, work 2 rows ribbing (P1.K1) with no increase

All sizes: Change to 4½ mm needles and with B work in stocking st (knit one side, purl the other) for 5 (5½) (5½) ins [13 (15) (15) cm] ending with right side facing for next row and increasing 0 (1) (2) sts evenly

To shape crown: With B, proceed as follows:

1st row: (right side) K1, * K2 together, K8. Repeat from * to end of row.
2nd row: P to end of row.
3rd row: K1, * K2 together, K7. Repeat from * to end of row.
4th row: P
Continue decreasing in this manner to 7 sts. on needle. Break yarn leaving a long end. Draw up and fasten securely. Sew center back seam.

(Margaret Belcher,
Central Presbyterian Church, Brantford)

What Easter Means to Me

**Death now is only a shadow
because Jesus bore the full impact
of its fury.**

**It is passing from Friday's
silent grave to
Sunday's resurrection morning**

Jolene Eby

Grace

Grace is found
in the outstretched arms
of Christ at Calvary.

It is God running
down the road
to welcome home
His prodigal son.

Grace is
offering living water
to a Samaritan woman.
Cooking breakfast
for Peter on the seashore.

Letting a doubting Thomas
touch His nail-pierced hands
asking His Father
to forgive His murderers.

Grace is letting us come
and live with Him forever.

Jolene Eby

My Days of Refreshing...

(continued from page 7)

I picked up my cup and went in. The soft patter of rain increased and became a steady downpour. In the distance thunder growled. For a few minutes I pressed my nose against the screen door and smelled the glorious rain drenched earth. Then I put on a tape and listened to Beethoven's Pastorale as I fed the lazy marmalade cat who had just come yawning from her bed.

Breakfast over and the dishes washed I put the cat on her leash and we went for a short walk. The rain had stopped. I was relaxed, my body rested and my soul restored. Yes. I was refreshed.

God Answers Prayer...

(continued from page 20)

healed me. On December 13, I was discharged from the hospital after a four month stay.

I learned through this experience that there's never been a night too dark for God to find me.

Elaine is a member of Writers in the Schools. She is the author of the award winning book, "Remembering Honey," contributing author to "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul" and "More God Allows U Turns." Visit her website at: http://elainehogg.tripod.com/webpages/

EASTER PUZZLE

From John's Gospel (RSV)

by Rosalie Sugrue

(Answers to puzzle on page 44.)

They arrayed him in a ___ robe. 19:2 __ __ __ __ __ **E**

And the soldiers ___ a crown of thorns. 19:2 __ __ **A** __ __ __ __

But Jesus gave no ___. 19:9 __ __ **S** __ __ __

It read: Jesus of ___, 19:19 __ __ __ __ __ __ **T** __

King of the ___. 19:19 __ **E** __ __

Pilate said, 'What I have written I have __.' 19:22 __ **R** __ __ __ __ __

When the soldiers had ___ Jesus...19:23 __ __ __ __ __ **F** __ __ __

They took his ___. 19:23 __ __ **R** __ __ __ __

They cast ___. 19:24 __ **O** __ __

Present at the cross: three women called _ 19:25 **M** __ __ __

When ___ saw his mother... 19:26 **J** __ __ __ __

They put a ___ full of vinegar... 19:29 __ __ **O** __ __ __

He said, 'It is ___' and bowed his head. 19:30

__ __ __ __ __ **H** __ __

Not a ___ of him shall be broken. 19:36 __ __ **N** __

___ of Arimathea asked if he might take the body 19:38

__ __ **S** __ __ __

And in the ___ a new tomb 19:41 **G** __ __ __ __ __

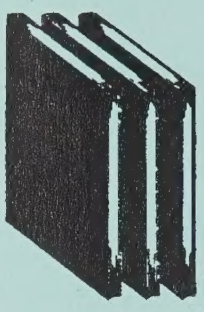
Jesus said to her, '___ not hold me' 20:17 _ **O**

He showed them his ___ and his side. 20:20 __ __ __ __ **S**

He said to them, 'Receive the Holy ___.' 20:22 __ **P** __ __ __ __

A fire with fish lying on it and ___... 21:9 __ __ **E** __ __

The final command: '___ me!' 21:22 __ __ __ **L** __ __



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Esther and Ruth, Interpretation Bible Studies, Patricia K. Tull, Westminster John Knox Press 2003 $12.75

This study book is easy to read and understand. It is also very scholarly with a strong Biblical background.

I liked the used of side bars that include further information, references, maps and more. There is no need to have a big library of reference books to use this study.

Each study deals with a chapter or so of Esther, then Ruth. At the back of the book there is a list of ten ways to study, always Bible centred, from discussion to research, from trips to the library to working creatively (writing, role playing, singing, printing, photography and other visual arts.

It can be used for individual or group study. Try it and enjoy!

Margaret Robertson

Treasured Bible Stories Brought To Life By A Retired Couple

In Winston, Oregon, just off Highway 5, the legendary adventure of Noah's Ark has been re-created for visitors of all ages with life-sized, painted wooden animals and an Ark-shaped building with a bow and stern that resembles Noah's Ark.

In the year 2000, Irvin and Shirley Thrush, a retired couple, fulfilled their dream by opening Noah's Ark. It is a 300-foot long and 75-foot wide structure built to look something like the original ark depicted in the Bible. The re-creation houses an exciting life-sized wilderness tabernacle of Moses exhibit, an Ark restaurant with a fun playhouse for kids, and a gift shop to support its ministry.

"Building the Ark is part of our ministry. We just wanted to share what we know," Shirley Thrush said.

Visitors may take the Ancient Mystery Temple Tour, a 45-minute excursion into the Promised Land where the desert tabernacle of Moses including a reproduction of the Golden Ark of the Covenant can be seen. This is the only full size replica of this ancient tabernacle that is on the west coast, and one of three in the United States, that they know of.

The tour goes on to include the Holy Land and the Ezekiel Temple model rooms with mural artwork that is not to be missed. Guests may take the tour seven days a week. Tickets are $6 for adults, $5.50 for seniors, $4.50 for children, four to twelve years old, and free for children three and under.

The couple focused on accurate measurements for Moses' tabernacle and exact

details taken from the Bible when they created this incredible attraction. Upon entering the temple tour fabulous life-sized murals cover the walls, which depict the Hebrews bringing sacrifices to the sanctuary. Visitors will also view the altar of sacrifice with faux fire burning, the altar of incense, the table of showbread, and Mt. Sinai with audible thunder and visible lightning with the sound of the voice of God reciting the Ten Commandments. For group tours, guides are dressed in period attire and robes are available for visitors to wear, giving the tour an authentic feel.

The restaurant, appropriately called, "Noah's Galley" offers a wide variety of homemade daily specials along with a healthy menu that is pleasing to vegetarians and now includes some meat items. A playful sign cautions not to tell Noah if eating meat. Characters in Biblical period attire will serve you and occasionally you'll hear the sound of water moving under the hull and rain on a sound system. Children can play in Noah's Playhouse—a child-sized Ark which is 18 feet long and filled with toy animals.

The "High Tide Gift Shop" offers unique gifts and collectibles from the Holy Land, local artists and around the world, as well as educational and reading materials.

Noah's Ark's desire is to educate the public about Biblical stories and their profound implications of salvation for people of all faiths. They are not affiliated with any religious organization, group, church, cult or synagogue and are independent and self-supporting.

For more information phone (541)784-1261 or visit:

www.noahsarkwinston.com

Dear June:

I enjoyed reading of Margaret Vanderzweerde's experience in delivering Operation Christmas Child boxes. On the other hand, it is sad to read letters in the Glad Tidings criticizing the fine work of Samaritans' Purse. Why would anyone want to deprive a child of a special day of knowing someone cared about him/her and the joy of receiving gifts? A list of appropriate gifts is given for each age group.

Is it not appalling too, that a source which doesn't appear to be that reliable, calls proclaiming the Christian faith 'a toxic agenda' of Operation Christmas Child?

Isn't the love of Jesus shown through His life, death and resurrection our message to the world? Isn't this the message that brings hope in this life and in the life to come?

How did the Bhils become Christians, the people of Korea, Taiwan, Africans, the Scots? Was not the message of salvation proclaimed and hospitals and schools built? Exactly what Samaritans' Purse is doing today, indeed, going into very dangerous places to work and proclaim the gospel.

The PCC has its way to do mission which is fine, but God's work is not limited to our vision or way of doing it.

Paul, in Philippians 1:15-18 shows us how we should think and act in ways other than our own Christian work.

Yours in Christ,

Lorna Teare

Willowdale, ON

Happy New Year to you, June:

The latest issue of Glad Tidings just arrived and I had time to read it from cover to cover. I was most impressed with Zander Dunn's letter.

Jonathan Medved's article disturbed me: "...our heroes were fighting to save lives—their heroes were sowing death and destruction...." While Denise's and the Patterson's letters are the 'stuff of mission.' Having seen Denise in her environment and knowing how much her work is appreciated is a gift. Indeed, Jim, "What does it take to swim against the current of theological lies?"

Warm Greetings,
Heather Johnston
Hamilton, ON

Note: There was an error in the Jan/Feb.04 *Our Readers Write.* The printers accidentally repeated the first part of a letter by Zander Dunn twice on page 28.

Change of Address Retired Staff:

Mary Nicol
#215-40 Pearl Street
Smiths Falls, ON K7A 5B5

Thoughts and Afterthoughts on Gossip

Compiled by Eve Stickland

Whoever goes around as a gossip tells secrets. Do not associate with a person whose mouth is always open. Proverbs 20:19

Promises from God's Word p 100. 1996

Forward in Faith

As I write this column, we have just entered a new year—2004. As treasurer of the WMS, I am interested in how the Society did financially during the past year.

Our receipts from presbyterials in 2003, as of this date, amount to $658,460.72. This is a decrease of more than 15% of the receipts for 2002 at this time last year. The amount received at that date was $778,892, which was an increase of $3,747 over the year 2001.

At this time we do not have an explanation for the sizable reduction in income. Is it the late submission of funds, or decreased givings to the Society for a variety of reasons, i.e. fewer auxiliaries and presbyterials? I am aware from requests for financial assistance received by the Society that many Christian charitable organizations experienced a shortage of donations last year.

When we have received our final receipts from our presbyterials for 2003, we will have a better understanding of the reason for our present situation.

I would take this opportunity to express the appreciation of council executive to the faithful WMS members who have supported the work of the Society during 2003.

May the Lord richly bless the members of our auxiliaries across the Society throughout 2004 as they worship and study together.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

MISSION IN ACTION

Randall
Taiwan

Christmas 2003—We are very thankful for the many prayers of friends for Taiwan and especially for our hospital and staff during the SARS outbreak. We were thankful we did not have any staff infections and of the 50+ suspect cases only two were actually SARS. Both of them recovered and returned home. This was a stressful and challenging time for all of us and we continue to educate staff and society as we prepare for a possible return this winter.

Pray that SARS may not return; **pray** for our staff and **pray** for Taiwan's acceptance into the World Health Organization in the future.

My 60th Birthday in June was precious and memorable with a worship service in Erhlin hospital, Home Worship at my place and time with special friends.

Our hospital has returned quickly to the level of patients in Out Patients and Admissions after SARS and many departments have increased their services. The Nan Guo Medical Research (Part 4) building was opened officially in November and it is used continually. The 12th floor hall is the Landsborough Memorial Hall and the 11th floor hall is the Dr. J. L. Wilkerson Memorial Hall, with a statue of him in front.

Thus many of our halls and lecture areas are named after previous missionaries. Our hospital museum continues to tell the story of the healing evangelical ministry in central Taiwan. We are now preparing to open a children's hospital in March 2004.

This year the "Women Gospel Singers" from our hospital's pastoral care department made a CD for evangelism—Rev. Dr. Hwang's wife is the director of this group.

Pray for our hospital as we continue to increase and improve our services and our evangelism.

Erhlin Hospital is now a separate hospital with its own superintendent and administrative committee of which I am a member. There are many elderly people in our area and our medical department is very busy.

Accreditations have been postponed because of SARS. Requirements regarding SARS and patient safety have been added to our preparations.

Pray for us we make preparations and for our success in both hospitals as we attain the standard of care for all our patients.

I was planning to retire the end of June but because of this I will continue in Taiwan until the end of July, followed by holidays in August, deputation for the fall with retirement December 31, 2004.

Miss Susan Chang has been the Director of Nursing in Changhua for the last couple of years and I have supported and encouraged her during this time.

Pray that this last year will be beneficial to both the hospital, nursing staff and myself as we share these final months together.

I had a very special opportunity to visit India, our Bhil area, and Pauline Brown

with others from Canada in November for 15 days. Seven of us were there to celebrate the 100th Jubilee of the Chichaniya Church where Dr. John Buchanan established this church.

We also visited many others in the area as well. I was amazed to see all the smiling faces of the Christians and especially the children when we arrived at the various churches. We were presented with many floral garlands, a peanut garland, and a bow and arrow! The padres/elders that spoke were eternally grateful for The Presbyterian Church in Canada bringing the Gospel to them. The children and youth choirs were very good and often sang in English. I think everyone's favorite hymn is "How Great Thou Art!"

Our visit to both Indore and Jobat Christian Hospitals and School of Nursing, Jobat Middle School and the community Health Projects in villages under the support of PWS&D brought their great needs and concerns to my heart. Our visit to Amkhut and the school and the Abey Children's Home moved me deeply and made me more aware of the simple life—so little food and water, yet they seemed clean and happy. Compared to others they did have more (more of God's love and joy) but it seemed very little to me.

This makes me very thankful for all I have and how much Taiwan has progressed over the years both for the people and in medical care. **Pray** that we will be more aware of the great needs of those in India and other underdeveloped countries and how much the Gospel of Jesus Christ meant to the Christians.

I met many wonderful church leaders and especially those in the hospitals like Dr. D. Tezlo, Dr. Maggie Kishan and Mercy Kavikant who is in charge of the Community Health Projects.

We met with the leaders of the Church of North India in Delhi and Dr. Sam Kishan shared the concerns and plans of the Synod Board of Health Services. I met Reena Bose who is also President of the Commonwealth Nurses Federation and Karuna Roy who is in charge of the AIDS Program.

Pray for all these special dedicated Christians as they carry out their call in medical work and for Polly Brown as she continues in her ministry in India.

One of the tourist highlights was our visit to the Taj Mahal. We also did some shopping in Indore and Delhi.

We have Chinese New Years on January 20th as well as many other holidays in January. All these special days will have special meaning for me this coming year.

One other great concern is the Presidential Election on March 20th, 2004. It looks like a very tight situation since the KMT and Blue Party joined together to overcome the DDP. Also there is to be a referendum (the US is reacting especially

Overseas Staff Birthdays

JULY

20 - Alan Howard, India

22 - Makram Barsoum, Cyprus

AUGUST

9 - Ken Kim, Guatemala

29 - Mona Barsoum, Cyprus

Wilma Welsh, Joy Randall and Louise Gamble and with Mr. Kuma Ko.

Wilma Welsh in front of the plaque at TamKang Middle School honoring the Rev. Dr. George Leslie Mackay.

towards this as they feel it is a major step towards independence) but President Chen says it is a request that Mainland China remove the missiles that are pointed towards Taiwan. I do not usually get too involved in politics so I lack a fuller understanding. It is difficult to know the final outcome of all this so it adds to the uncertainty of the future. Please **pray** for the future of Taiwan and for a peaceful solution.

Thankful for your many cards, letters and emails over the year.

Blessing in 2004,

Love, Joy

Wilma Welsh Tells of Visit To Taiwan

The General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan invited me to attend the World Association of Taiwanese Churches 10th anniversary event held in early October 2003 in Taiwan.

One of the comments shared at the meetings was that Taiwan is a suffering church, a church that for many years like the New Testament church, suffered from persecution. Despite the persecution the church in Taiwan has grown and continues to grow.

Taiwan is also a suffering country, one that is struggling for independence and

Dr. Ko presents snuff box to Wilma.

membership in the United Nations. Taiwan is also not permitted to be a member of the World Health Organization (WHO). The reality is that diseases like SARS are not only experienced by people from member countries of the WHO. Taiwan is preparing for another possible SARS outbreak during the winter months.

Joy Randall and I were the only non-Taiwanese in an audience of over 3,000 Presbyterians who heard the strong independence message from Dr. Chen, the President of Taiwan, as well as a Christian message from Dr. Lee, past president of Taiwan (formerly associated with the KMT party).

Dr. Lee is an elder in one of the Taipei congregations of The Presbyterian Church

in Taiwan and because of his leadership and foresight, Taiwan has ecome a democratic country, one that is no longer under martial law. Dr. Lee is know as the "father of democracy" in Taiwan.

During my time in Taiwan I visitied YuShan Theological Seminary in Hualien, and had an opportunity to meet again the wonderful choir that visited Canada last September.

Please **pray** for Taiwan and especially for the Presbyterian Church on that beautiful island off the coast of mainland China.

Schwarz
Nepal

December 2003—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Father. We do thank God for each one of you who supports us in prayer, encouragement and finances. At this time with the ongoing civil war, the news of peace and reconciliation between God and men incarnate in Jesus takes on a very real meaning to us all. "Fill the nations with grace and mercy" we sing—let that be the case here.

"When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they yelled out... 'The gods have turned into humans and come down among us!'" (Acts 14:11). You have heard in previous letters the many parallels between Biblical times and cultures with those in Nepal. I was thinking that we experience the reality of this story here in Pokhara. In the West it may seem so superstitious and strange to call men gods, yet I get called that five or six times a year!

Snuff box presented to Wilma Welsh by Mr. Kuma Ko. The artist, who is over 80 years old, was commissioned by Mr. Ko to do six. Only three turned out well. The box is brush-painted from the inside of the bottle. On the front of the box is a picture of Dr. Mackay and on the reverse a picture of Mackay Church in Tamsui. Mr. Ko is related to Mrs. George Leslie Mackay. This snuff box is now in the Presbyterian Museum in Toronto.

Take Jaya Nidhi, a middle aged man who became paralyzed and developed a festering bedsore 20x20 cm down to bone. I heard about him at the government hospital and when I met him, he and his family were completely without hope. With wonderful nursing care and one big operation, the bedsore was healed and he is now sitting up and booting around in his wheelchair. The other day when I sat down with him to talk about his family, his future and his faith, he said, "You are my god! To heal this ulcer that nobody else could, and bring me to this wonderful place, you are my god!" What a wonderful "in" to explain who the living God is, who put His love into our staff and supporters so that the hospital can exist. What a way to

explain why loving staff can be there to care for him and share good news with him, all so that people such as he can get the care they need even without sufficient resources. Jaya Nidhi knows now how good God is.

Remember him and his family as they gear up for the huge jump of the transition home—wheelchair friendly and environment, new vocation, etc. and what will happen with their faith.

Ling as usual is spinning around with Sunday School, women's meetings, INF directors' meetings, and now in addition to starting women's work projects, is an advisor to a local Christian microenterprise project. She raises a family on the side and is doing a great job!

Meanwhile I am slouching about Green Pastures Hospital, operating on disabled folk and working hard at transforming this place into a full rehabilitation center. A lot of training has happened this year with considerable transfer of really helpful information and visions.

We have started running disability camps where we have met many disabled folk in real need of care. It is great to see the wonder in their faces as twisted limbs are restored to usefulness. I have also helped with the English sub-titles on a new Christian Nepali film, "What kind of Love!" produced by a good friend of ours.

We have had five (small) earthquakes here, all quite close together, which is unheard of for Pokhara. The kids think it is great—after the quake stops! The war grumbles on with over a thousand deaths since the resumption of the conflict in August. We have had a few attacks in and around Pokhara, and business extortion is quite commonplace now.

The king appears to be more or less running the country, with the political parties squabbling for power.

We arranged an early short furlough around Christmas (2003) for the first time since 1994. The kids were very excited about the same stuff that makes me nervous. They were geared up for snow, which they haven't played in below 400 m.

As we did our Christmas Advent readings with our children, we learned daily of the different names of our Lord Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega was our starting point. The words of the song reminded me that Christ is our source (of motivation and love) and goal (our purpose for being here).

Linked through Christ,

Richard, Ling, Jon, Daniel and Christina

DISTURBING NEWS FROM THE BHIL FIELD, INDIA

Pauline Brown has reported that Christian churches, hospital and schools, in the Bhil field have been threatened by Hindu extremists. The church in Kathiwara was burned, as were several houses belonging to Christians.

Thirteen Christians were in jail, eight of whom including Rev. Emanuel Ariel, minister of the Amkhut Church, and Theophilus Stevens, Principal of the Amkhut Christian School, are charged with the murder of the Hindu man killed when Christians in Amkhut tried to defend their church and school from the extremists.

Pauline had high praise for the special police who were assigned to guard the area and for their treatment of the Christian community during the time of crisis.

A busload of Christian leaders, and some of those whose homes were burned

traveled to Delhi to meet with the Minister for Minorities, the Indian Rights Commission and the President of India to present their case for justice and for protection from this kind of persecution.

Ron Wallace, International Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada sent a strongly worded letter of support to the Indian High Commission in Ottawa on January 26, 2004. The letter expressed the sense of shock and great concern that is being felt by members of The Presbyterian in Canada because of the outbreak of violent persecution against our Christian brothers and sisters among the Bhil people in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

In it Wallace praised the response of the Indian authorities and the professional way in which they carried out their duties.

He explained the special and ongoing relationship The PCC has had with the Bhild people of Vindyha Satpura for over 100 years.

He asked prayerfully and respectfully of the Government of India that steps be taken to prevent extremist groups from both maligning and terrorizing minorities and that justice will be realized for those whose homes have been burned, and for those innocent persons who have been charged with a murder they did not commit.

Easter in Mendha Remembered

Having received the prayer request yesterday from Ron Wallace for our friends in the Bhil Field, our thoughts return to those peaceful, gracious people we met on our visit there in 1974, almost thirty years ago. It was Easter weekend when we travelled with Ida White to Mendha, and had a never-to-be-forgotten experience on Easter morning.

We were awakened early, and just before sunrise Ida led us out to the small hill on the outskirts of the village, where everyone was carrying a flashlight or a lighted torch, as we all made our way to the top. Then as the sun rose, everyone joined in singing the favourite Easter hymn "Jesus Christ is risen today, Allelujah!" Though we joined them by singing in English and everyone else was singing in their native tongue, we experienced with them the joy of the Easter message: "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!"

We have many wonderful memories of our time in India, in Jhansi at the H.M.M. School, and of our brief visit to the Bhil field, many of which have resurfaced as we participated in the current mission study. A big thank you to all who have made this most interesting study possible, which highlights the labours of all our missionaries since Dr. Buchanan lived and worked in the area, and to the people themselves, who have maintained their faith in difficult times. May God continue to bless them, and keep them in His loving care.

Jim and Kass Whitefield,
St. Andrew's, Cobourg

Former PCC missionary **Hubert Budding**, who served with his wife Nan in Nepal for several years passes away on December 27, 2003.

The funeral service was held at St. John's, Toronto on December 30. Ron Wallace, Mary Beth McLean and Gladys Stover attended the service to represent International Ministries, as did former I M staff Marjorie Ross and Wilma Welsh.

NEWS

Progress in Ending FGM

Burkina Faso: Minister Affirms Government Position on FGM and Forced Early Marriage

In Burkina Faso, it is estimated that more than 60 per cent of women are being subjected to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), an indication that despite the prohibition of the practice, the country has yet to register visible significant changes in social behaviour. This not withstanding, the Government is still pushing forward with its campaign against FGM. Law also prohibits early and forced marriages and contraveners are punishable under the Burkinabe Penal Code.

In its second periodic report on the rights of the child, presented to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on 1 October 2002, the Burkinabe Government, through H.E. Mariam Lamizana, Burkinabe Minister of Social Action, stated that those who still practised FGM are "beginning to be punished effectively" throughout the country. For instance, seven practitioners were being held in Ougadougou prison and another was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

The report also indicated that the Government abhorred forced marriages, a tradition that is still widespread. The situation is being compounded by the conspiracy of silence that pervades the rural areas where the practice is rampant, making it difficult for the government to catch culprits.

The minister added that lack of national and international financial resources contributed to the seeming ineffectiveness of conventional campaigns to educate the population on the damaging effects of forced marriages and FGM.

But all is not gloom, as the Government had achieved results in its efforts to legislate against FGM and forced marriages. The education of girls is on the rise, a step in the right direction in the campaign against the two practices.

A member of the Burkinabe delegation reinforced the Government commitment by adding that her country was making great efforts to maintain dialogue with and organize workshops for traditional leaders over the FGM issue.

Ethiopia: Couple Takes Bold Stand Against FGM

Kambatta is known for its high prevalence of FGM. So the marriage ceremony that received wide media coverage as reported by various local newspapers such as the "Capital" on 22 December 2002 and the "Reporter" on 25 December 2002 would come as a great surprise to many who know the value accorded to FGM in Kambatta.

The two papers reported the bold action of the unexcised bride, Genet Girma and the proud groom Addisie Abosie, which is seen as a landmark in the history

Brave couple makes history.

Excisors hand over instruments.

of Kambatta, a sub-district with strong traditions that shuns the marriage of unexcised girls. Thus it can be inferred that the boys in the area would generally not stoop so low as to marry the likes of Genet.

During the ceremony, Genet bravely carried a placard stating, "I am not circumcised, learn from me." Addisie's placard read, "I am happy to be marrying an uncircumcised woman." Genet's bridesmaids consisted of all the 317 unexcised girls in the sub-district while the advocacy and support committee members stood as Addisie's best men.

Genet and Addisie, who are now expecting their first child, wanted their marriage publicized to educate the community that excision is not a precondition for marriage. It is also worth noting that some religious leaders in Ethiopia have earnestly joined the fight against FGM.

Niger: CONIPRAT: Excisors Renounce Their Trade

In Niger, a group of excisors has openly renounced FGM. This took place in a ceremony organized by Le Comité Nigérien sur les Pratiques Traditionelles (CONIPRAT), during which excisors handed over their tools of the trade at Tera, one of the regions with the highest prevalence of FGM.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Social Development, Population and the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children, the Minister of Public Health, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, the Minister of Planning and various distinguished guests.

During the ceremony, the excisors listed the grave consequences of FGM, notably: Haemorrhage, infant mortality, incontinence and risk of transmission of diseases such as tetanus and HIV/AIDS. They also stated that both Islam and modern science (medicine) condemn FGM; and concluded by renouncing the trade before all participants.

February 6 was recognized as the International Day for "Zero tolerance to FGM." Join the fight to break the silence that has contributed to the perpetuation of this harmful practice.

Reprinted from Inter-Africa Committee Newsletter No. 32, December 2002

VON in Guyana!

OTTAWA, ON, Sept. 18/CNW—Today the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) for Canada announces their partnership in a four year project to respond to the STD, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis health crisis in Guyana, South America. "We are so excited to be moving into International

Health projects because it is a global extension of our commitment to partner for healthier communities," states Ron Farrell, President & CEO, VON Canada.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) selected the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) to design and implement a STD/HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis surveillance, prevention, control and care project in Guyana. A consortium of experts from across Canada, including the VON, will work together throughout the project. "Our focus will be on establishing home and community nursing standards of practice and training home and community health care workers to improve their local health care delivery," notes Faye Porter, Vice President, VON Canada, Guyana Project.

Since 1897 VON has reached out to people in need of health care and support services in their homes and communities. Now VON is reaching further in the hopes of helping international communities improve and maintain their health.

This is VON's second international partnership to reach a common goal of improving the health and well being of people in need. Their first initiative in 2001 involved teaching the Federation of Ecuadorian Nurses (FEDE) how to develop and implement a home and community health care system in Ecuador.

VON is a national health organization and registered charity offering a wide range of community health care solutions that meet the needs of Canadians from coast to coast. VON is dedicated to being a leader in the delivery of innovative comprehensive health and social services and to influencing the development of health and social policy in Canada. VON is committed to quality improvement and is nationally accredited by the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation.

For further information: MEDIA CONTACT: Jennifer Stevens, VON Canada, (613) 233 8825 ext 228, cell: 296 9736, www.von.ca

My Creek

I lived beside a creek once
Its happy chatter rang
And bubbled clear
And beautiful
Across the gravelly sand
Sometimes when I feel lonely
My world a shade of grey
I remember the laughter
of the creek
The water dancing at my feet
And my cares just drift away.

Maureen E. Kowal

In the Society

Presbyterial

A "Soup and Salad Bar" was the first order of business at the Fall Mission Rally of **Brockville** Presbyterial. This meeting, held at St Paul's, Winchester, Ontario, was convened by president, Margaret Reynolds with members from several auxiliaries taking part.

Sonya Henderson, overseas mission staff, gave a presentation about her work in Hungary and Romania. For two and one half years now, she has worked with Hungarians in three different areas: teaching English to theological students at the Hungarian Protestant Theological Institute; helping at the Lamont Centre for physically disabled adults, teaching the day clients English and computer skills; and running day camps for the Gypsy children living in southern Hungary and Croatia.

She thanked the WMS for donating funds so that these camps could be a reality. Sixty-five to seventy children attend day camps where participants are involved in soccer, learning English, crafts, team-building activities and singing. A small lunch of sweet tea and bread and butter sandwiches is served. These camps provide young people with wonderful memories and also teach the leaders skills that they can take back and use in their villages.

Sonya also mentioned that the WMS was helping establish worship programs in some churches in Romania. She thanked the WMS for their financial support and Sonya, in turn, was thanked for sharing her experiences with those present.

The Fall Rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held at St. Andrew's, Sarnia, ON. Dr. Ray Hodgson welcomed everyone to St. Andrew's and said grace. A potluck lunch was served.

Dorothy Neal introduced the children whom the presbyterial and Laurel Lea-St. Matthew's had sponsored to Camp Kintail last summer. The girls sang some camp songs and Odette Archibald thanked them.

Shirley Johnson and Marilyn Shaw led in singing. Co-president Fleur Eenkhoorn opened the afternoon session with prayer and the WMS Purpose. Past president Anna Jean McCoskery reported that monies raised in our presbyterial and matched by PWS&D for a second mile project had reached Rev. Vanhei in Myanmar. Now one nurse and three nurses aides are being trained. The money will assist the village people and help them become more self sufficient.

Margaret McNeil called on Ann Jean to tell of her recent trip to Nicaragua with others from Lambton West Middlesex Presbyterial. They took medicines and school supplies, visiting INPRHU, an human rights organization and a small enterprise in Chaguitillo which enables people to become self sustaining.

Closing worship was led by St. Andrew's women reading about the signs of hope in Nicaragua. Evelyn Shaw sang a solo and a unison prayer closed the meeting.

On November 4, 2003, although the day was cold and blustery, hearts were warm

as 30 people of **Paris** Presbyterial from Woodstock, Brantford, Paris and surrounding area embarked on a trip to Toronto for a step back in time.

First stop was St. John's Church, Broadview, Avenue, Toronto, and the home of the National Presbyterian Museum. The museum, officially opened and dedicated on September 29, 2002, was a labour of love for several volunteers especially Dr. John Johnston of Hamilton.

In speaking to our group Dr. Johnston reminded us that archives are paper, but a museum is the home for three-dimensional history. The museum is full of wall hangings, items retrieved from mission trips, old books, photographs, musical instruments, even a set-up of a 150-year-old country church and pastor's study. Focal point of the museum is the over 3,000 communion tokens from Donald Brown of Brantford for inspiring the museum's creation.

After the museum we stopped for lunch at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Don Mills, then we were off to the national office for a visit to The Book Room.

Local

On November 10, 1944, Jean Taylor (wife of Rev. Dr. Robert) and Mary (Wm) Rutherford invited four others to a meeting at the manse of **St. John's Presbyterian Church, Medicine Hat, AB** in order to start a younger women's WMS to be an adjunct to the group which originated in the 1890s.

Edna Mae Minor Smith was a member of this group for many years. On November 12, 2003 she attended her last meeting of that group, the Hargrave Taylor WMS. She died on November 21, 2003 at the age of 95. Edna held a Life and an Honorary Membership in recognition of her service to the Church and the WMS.

Edna frequently traveled 100 to 400 miles to attend Presbyterial and synodical meetings and was one of five from St. John's who attended the anniversary celebrations held by Council in 1964 in Montreal.

Her family and her church were her life. One of St. John's saints, she will be dearly missed.

Bess Macintosh celebrated her 100th birthday on September 12, 2003. There was a special birthday celebration held at Knox, Selkirk, MB where Bess was a member. She belonged to the Knox Afternoon Auxiliary WMS and was their treasurer for many years.

Bess was an honorary president of the Winnipeg Presbyterial. By profession she was a teacher.

George Sigerdson, Winnipeg Blue Bombers was at the 100th birthday celebration for Bess Macintosh in Knox Selkirk, MB. George was a pupil in her Grade 2 class.

At her party, Bess was honoured by many. Over the years she had been a member of Professional Business Women, and Ladies Auxiliary of the Eastern Star.

She was honoured by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers at one of their games for being a 50-year season ticket holder.

Bess, pictured on page 41, visited shut-ins until a couple of months before her 100th birthday, was a long time choir member and elder. The funeral was held November 22, 2003.

Alice McMullin, born in 1926 passed away on January 1, 2004. Ontario. This remarkable woman, born in Ottawa, lived her last two years in Barrie, Ontario at an assisted living facility, Heritage Place. She had battled multiple sclerosis since her 20s sometime after her marriage to John Greig McMullin. Alice had had to give up her position as a librarian in Guelph.

Subsequently they moved to Windsor where they brought up their two adopted children, Moragh and Reginald. Moragh spoke in her eulogy so movingly and with such love and admiration of her mother. Apparently, she moved through her life with her husband and children with little complaint of how MS was hampering her. Alice had spoken to her daughter of how little she had accomplished in her life, a statement with which her daughter and son, three grandchildren, extended family and friends heartily disagree.

Alice had recently placed in the hands of publishers her completion of a book her husband had begun about the lives of his missionary forebears in Korea. This was a major goal she worked on in these last few years since his sudden death on Christmas Eve 2000. (Moragh remarked that their father and their mother had lived the exact same number of days! They consider that to be not a coincidence but in the providence of God.)

Others who have known Alice McMullin longer could speak more fully of her life. For us at Essa Road Presbyterian Church in Barrie it has been a privilege to know her this short time. She was a member of our WMS group.

When she found it difficult to come last January we conducted that meeting at Heritage Place, inviting others there to join us. Otherwise, as for church attendance, she booked assisted transportation to join us in our meetings. Alice had two poems published in Glad Tidings, Summer Soliloquy (Sept./Oct.2002), for which she received an honourable mention award from Canadian Church Press and 'Wondrous Wonders. These poems were read at her funeral service by Moragh and Rev. Tom Cunningham. Her extensive writings included three books for children.

Alice had a wonderful smile and her eyes shone with deep interest and caring when she spoke with any one of us. Hers was a truly rich life, well lived in God. We will all truly miss this woman of determination and courage.

The 65th Anniversary celebration for the **Helen Young Auxiliary** on November 20th at **Paris, ON** began with dessert and fellowship in the Rose Room. The President welcomed 40 members, friends from the congregation, sister auxiliaries from the Presbyterial, Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs, AEC of Dundas and guest speaker Rev. Sarah Kim, WMS Executive Secretary.

The minutes of the first meeting on November 18th, 1938 were read by Janet

Helen Young Auxiliary 65th Anniversary: Left to right - Gloria Wasacase, synodical president, Sarah Kim Executive Secretary WMS, Anne Yee-Hibbs, Area Consultant, Margaret Guthrie, charter member, Shirley Miller, president Paris presbyterial and Helen Young Auxiliary, Kay Oldham, charter member and Kathy Thomson, youngest Helen Young Auxiliary member.

Corrigan. Four women from that roll are still living: Thora Dunn, Margaret Guthrie, Kay Oldham and Bernice Telfer.

Two charter members present were honoured. Kay Oldham's long service was recognized by Joyce Bawcutt and Betty Hoard alluded to Margaret Guthrie's faithfulness to Christ in her dedication to WMS work.

Worship was conducted in the sanctuary. Ilene Davis read scripture passages I Thess 20 followed with a meditation "On Being Good Ancestors" by the President. Rev. Anne Yee Hibbs lead a memorial moment and prayer with one of the newest auxiliary member, Kathy Thomson, lighting the memorial candle.

A musical message "Find us Faithful" was sung by Sharon Cox accompanied by pianist Susan Ritchie.

Guest speaker, Rev. Sarah Kim, gave a personal glimpse of her life from her North Korean grandfather being brought to Christianity by Presbyterian missionaries sent from the WMS, to arriving in Labrador as an eight-year-old.

In September 2001, she took part in the 50th Anniversary of the Nigerian Presbyterian Church. In May she met with Christian women around the world in Geneva, Switzerland.

Here women explored their role in mission today comparing Mark 15-16, the commission to go into the world to preach the gospel with the Mary and Martha story.

In a recent visit to Japan, she met with Presbyterian women whose Mission Society is structured similar to ours.

The Japanese women are anxious for us to share concerns and progress in mission endeavours. Sarah closed with the question. "Where are we going as a mission society?"

She reminded us of the changes in the thrust of our work over the years from sending out missionaries with aid from WMS to partnerships with Third World communities with the most recent thrust being the forming of friendships with congregations and women's auxiliaries in the Southern World as it is referred to now.

St. Andrew's, Kingston, December meeting. Left to right: Phyllis Bentley, Helen Ledford, Dorothy McEwan, Olive Brinson, Audrie Cossar, Dorothy Fresque, Doreen Dath, Jean Baudoux. Marnie Forrest, Louise Axford.

Dorothy Fresque,WMS **Evening Auxiliary, Kingston**, reports that the year 2003 has been a busy informative and worshipful year. Every month brought very interesting speakers; our own members prepared studies on different topics taken from *Making Connections 2002-2003*. The World Day of Prayer was hosted by the members and held at St. Andrew's. Many churches of different faiths took part in the service, which was very well attended.

The December meeting took the form of a Christmas party and potluck luncheon followed by a program in keeping with the season. Jean Baudoux gave a thoughtful devotion using the advent theme of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love with members taking part in scripture readings and candle lighting. Dorothy Bendle accompanied by Mr. Ron Axford rendered two beautiful solos. Carols were sung by all.

The highlight of the meeting was the introduction of special guests: Synodical President for Toronto-Kingston, Doreen Dath, Belleville; special guest, President of Kingston Presbyterial, Olive Brinson, Tweed. Both women brought greetings. Irene Callum was introduced. Mrs. Callum is a charter member of the Evening Auxiliary, which was formed over 65 years ago. She is very interested in the work of the WMS.

Phyllis Bentley a longtime treasurer of the organization was thanked for her devoted years of service and presented with a small remembrance. The Presbyterial president installed the president, Audrie Cossar and her executive for the year 2004.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE ON P 27:

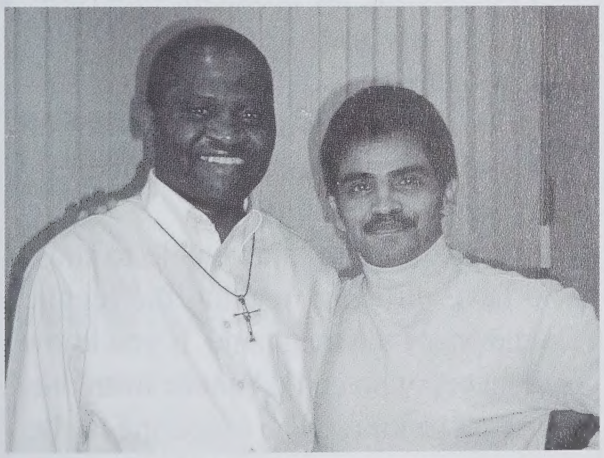
PURPL**E**, PL**A**ITED, AN**S**WER, NAZARE**T**H, J**E**WS, W**R**ITTEN; CRUCI**F**IED, GA**R**MENT, L**O**TS, **M**ARY; **J**ESUS, SP**O**NGE, FIN-ISH**E**D, BON**E**, JOSEPH; **G**ARDEN, D**O**, HAND**S**, S**P**IRIT, BR**E**AD, FOL**L**OW.

E.H. Johnston Consultation Held

On the weekend of November 14-16 the E.H. Johnston Trustees sponsored a Consultation to "imagine the future of mission." It was held at the Salvation Army Conference Centre at Jackson's Point, north of Toronto. Fifty participants attended from across Canada. Professor Andrew Walls from Edinburgh University assisted in the discussions.

Facilitators from partner churches also shared in the consultation. Fernando Cascante brought a perspective from the church in the South. He introduced an element of play into the proceedings which helped everyone relax and get to know each other.

There was a balance of age, gender, ethnicity, lay and clergy. Some of those attendiing had participated in exchange visits sponsored by the E.H. Johnston Fund. Janice Carter, Editor Presbyterian Message from Kouchibouguac, NB and June Stevenson, Editor Glad Tidings, Toronto remembered their experiences in Cuba in 1997.



Daniel Gunya, Malawi, left and Fernando Cascante share a friendly moment at consultation.

The Women's Missionary Society

is seeking applications for the position of

Editor, Glad Tidings

(Half-Time)

The primary task of the Editor is the production of six issues yearly of the Glad Tidings magazine, a mission magazine produced by the WMS. The Editor may also be asked to assist in the editing and production of other materials produced by the Society.

Applicants should have

- a university degree (or equivalent)
- Microsoft Word/Office and desktop computer skills
- knowledge of the printing process
- understanding of structure, programs and polity of WMS and PCC
- organizational ability, accuracy, efficiency and ability to meet deadlines.
- work experience in all aspects of publication.

All inquiries and resumes *by April 15, 2004* to:

Gloria Wasacase
Personnel Committee
280 Wellington St
Brantford ON N3S 3Z9
Phone: 1-519-735-7264

Email: GWasacase0403@rogers.com

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CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

It has been brought to our attention that some subscribers received copies of the January/February 2004 Glad Tidings magazine that was missing several pages, with several pages repeated. If this is the case with your copy of the magazine, please return it to our office if convenient or let us know about it so that we can inform the printer, and send you another copy of the magazine.

If you have a problem receiving the magazine, please contact your local post office first and then notify your Glad Tidings secretary or our office and we will try to assist you. Please check the label on your magazine to make sure the address is correct. I had a computer problem in December so there is a possibility that any changes that were done in November may have been missed when correcting the problem.

There are still approximately 27 groups that have not returned their subscription list. We will be following up on these groups shortly and hopefully will soon hear from them.

The large print is available to those who have difficulty reading the regular sized print of the magazine. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, please let us know. The magazine is also available on a cassette tape for the sight impaired.

The E.H. Johnston Memorial Trust Fund was established 20 years ago, in 1983, to honour one of the distinguished mission leaders of our church. Its purpose is to promote "cutting edge" mission issues. The Trust sponsors the annual Mission Luncheon at the General Assembly which recognizes someone who has shown outstanding leadership in mission.

Wilma Welsh coordinated the logistics for this consultation and participated in the weekend.

Mission, which was seen as a North American thrust to less fortunate countries following the 1st world war, has now shifted dramatically. In this new time North Americans are being ministered to by the very churches we once sought to evangelize.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Ruth Petrie
Knox, Agincourt, ON

Mrs. Helen (Norval) Cox
St. Andrew's, Allenford, ON

Hazel Cameron
Alice McMullin
Essa Road, Barrie, ON

Mrs. V. Pleiter
St. Andrew's, Corunna, ON

Marjorie Cruickshank
Knox, Dundas, ON
(mother of Rev. Robert Cruickshank)

Helen Duncanson
Duff, Largie, Dutton, ON

Mrs. Irene Lunn
Mrs. Mildred Marshman
Knox, Fingal, ON

Mrs. Norma Goldsmith
Kirk-on-the-Hill, Fonthill, ON

Anne (Nicholson) Hall
St. Andrew's, Guelph
(widow of Rev. William Nicholson.)

Margaret Bailey
MacNab Street, Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Lorna (Meldrum) MacKay
Knox, Harrington, ON

Mrs. Aurelia Rathbun
St. Andrew's, Hillsburgh, ON

Helen Gare
West Adelaide, Kerwood, ON

Mrs. Muriel MacMillan
Knox, Kintyre, ON

Kathleen May Rothwell
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Pearl Jamieson
Audrey MacDonald
Lucknow, ON

Edna Smith
St. John's, Medicine Hat, AB

Catherine (Kay) Mills
Chippawa,Niagara Falls, ON

Mrs. Gladys Yungblut
North Pelham, ON

Mrs. Gertrude Shortill
Norval, ON

Eleanor Clark
Winnie Cowan
Annie MacLeader
Tweedsmuir Memorial,
Orangeville, ON

Jean Stow
Erskine, Ottawa, ON

Marie Moore
St. John's, Port Perry, ON
(widow of Rev. Dr. George H. Moore)

Christina (Chris) Galley Anderson
Knox, Richmond, BC

Florence MacDonald
Ripley, ON

Bess Macintosh
Knox, Selkirk, MB

Mary Isobel Robertson
Jubilee, Stayner, ON

Mrs. Yvonne (Herbert) Sanders
Fairview, Vancouver, BC

Winifred MacKenzie
Kathleen McHoag
St. Paul's, Wiarton, ON

Miss Marlene Zehr
Knox, Woodstock, ON

When Bam, Iran was hit by an earthquake on December 26, 2003, you were there. When you support PWS&D, you support the Action by Churches Together (ACT) rapid response fund, which helps ACT members in the region deliver support to disasters immediately. The next day, ACT members sent people and resources to Bam to help survivors. On December 31, 400 family-sized tents arrived in Bam. They were distributed to people with special needs, mostly the elderly, orphans and sick people. Ongoing support is still needed to help rebuild.

Be there.

Presbyterian World Service & Development is your agency to respond to emergencies. PWS&D cannot respond without your support. Please give generously.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7 tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca/pswd/

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Glad Tidings

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Cover Photo: Mayan women by Faye Wakeling. See note page 5.

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May/June 2004
Volume 81 No. 3

EDITOR
L. JUNE STEVENSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

Faith of Our Mothers and Fathers

My mother died peacefully in her sleep last May 7. She was 94. I was grateful to have had her for so long. This past year, without her, has made me realize just what she meant in my life. I am the woman I am today because of both of my parents, but especially my mother.

Mother had a simple but deep faith. She spoke often of her mother who faithfully read the Bible, and of her father, who went to church each Sunday. My mother's faith upheld her through her first marriage when her young husband died after three years in a TB sanitarium. She was left with a young son.

Two years later she married my father, and soon after I was born he sailed off to war in Europe. He was gone for four years. My early years are filled with happy memories of my brother, mother, and her mother. There are a lot of pictures to prove it: pictures we sent my father—of pumpkins we grew, Hallowe'en costumes we made and tea parties with my dolls and our cocker spaniel, Blackie.

Special occasions were Mother's forte. Not a single one passed without a brightly decorated cake. Mother is the only person I know who could make one egg into a meal for all of us. The year I was four we celebrated New Year's Day with a can of beans cooked in the coal furnace because an ice storm knocked out the electricity.

Mother taught as she went about her daily tasks. I learned the proper way to mend a sock, to iron handkerchiefs and pillowcases, to knit and to make do with little, all because my mother showed me how. Mother never had a floor polisher, just two kids who donned heavy socks and skated along until they could see their faces in the floor.

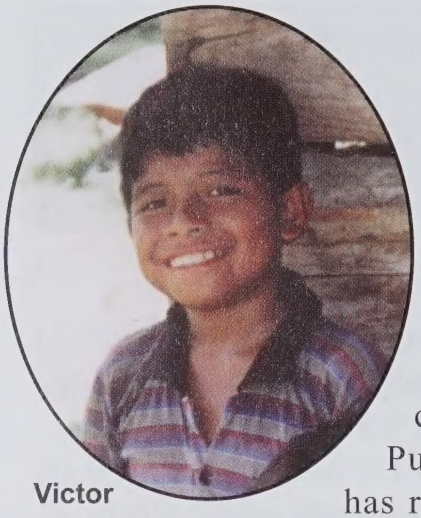
Mother demonstrated her faith by how she lived her life. She was patient and kind. She visited friends and acquaintances, especially when there was illness or difficulty. When she was older and couldn't get out as much, she would call the florist and have flowers sent to friends, just because she was thinking of them.

Mother was proud of her three children's achievements but she never craved any for herself. Material possessions meant little to her. She saved precious gifts for special occasions and as a result never used some. She was unsophisticated and unworldly. In her entire life she traveled east to St. John's, Newfoundland, west to Niagara Falls, Ontario; north to Cochrane, Ontario and south into New York state.

Our faith as individuals is built upon those who went before us. We all remember friends, teachers and family who influenced our faith journey: As members of the Women's Missionary Society and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the same is true. Let us remember too that there are those who look to us for guidance and direction. We are now those mothers and fathers in the faith.

A Boy and a Bamboo House

by Mary Lou Johnston



Victor

Victor is a ten-year-old boy living in the Mayan community of Puntarenas. He has reached grade four, the top level of the school in his village but it is unlikely he will be able to continue to another school. Like his classmates he will probably spend his days working the land with his father, growing maize and corn. Although he is like many other children in the world, he lives in a unique environment in Guatemala.

The community of Puntarenas is one of many Mayan communities in the northern region of Guatemala beside the Atlantic Ocean, just south of Belize. There are no roads to these villages; to reach them you must travel by boat from Livingston along the coast and up small rivers. In Victor's case, the river is a large one, Rio Dulce, opening out to a wide body of water almost like a lake, El Golfete.

From there you take a small creek deep into the mangrove swamp until you finally reach drier land. At the dock a wooden boardwalk takes you to the houses and a church. There is enough land to graze some cows, a few pigs, turkeys and ducks as well as grow corn and beans.

Why do Victor and his family live in this remote area so far away from roads, towns, schools and the conveniences available in the other parts of the country? The simple answer is—to be safe! The larger answer lies in the history of Guatemala. The Mayan people who once had an advanced culture were defeated by the Spanish in the 16th century and have been subjugated ever since.

They are regarded as inferior and useful only as labourers. Their land was taken from them and they now for the most part must farm steep hillsides to grow their corn and beans. It is a little like the way we have treated our native people.

The Mayan people fled to this part of the country in two periods. The first was in the 1940s when the plantations were expanding and needed workers. The owners came to the Mayan villages, took people away and treated them like slave labourers, not even paying them. The people searched for a piece of land where they could not be found.

The last period of flight was during the thirty-year-period of civil war which

Leanne Hart, below right, with Teo, one of the CEIDEC directors splitting the bamboo.

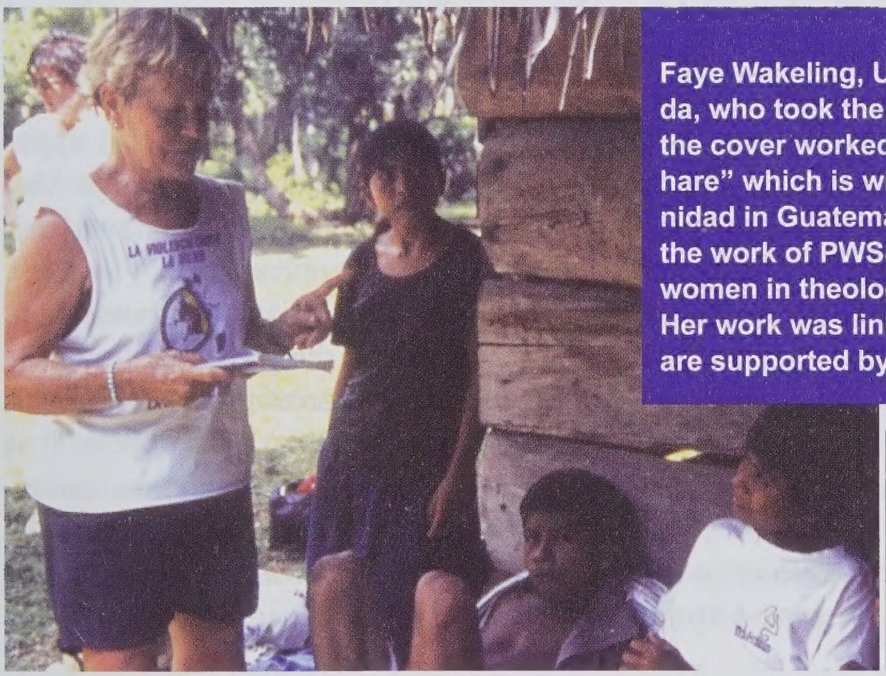
ended in the late 1980s. As a fear tactic whole villages were massacred because the military believed the people were assisting the rebels who were fighting for some sort of justice and equal land rights for their people. Since the peace accords there has not been much improvement although now there is more legal support for the land rights of the Mayan people.

Presbyterian World Service & Development has supported projects among the Guatemalan Mayans for a number of years. One partner is CEIDEC (Centro de Estudios Integrales y de Desarrollo Comunal). The community development project most appreciated by the women is the corn mill.

For a task that would take several hours each day to grind the corn to make the tortillas (the mainstay of every meal) the corn mill can do it in one minute.

The women are in charge of each mill; the fee for the grinding is 25c, just to cover the cost of the diesel fuel to run the engine. Several Mayan communities have these corn mills as well as other useful additions to their primitive life style such as treadle sewing machines and chicken hatcheries.

To be able to visit Puntarenas, I was part of a five-person mission team from



Faye Wakeling, United Church of Canada, who took the photos above and on the cover worked with "Pastorale Mohare" which is with the Mayan Fraternidad in Guatemala. She helped facilitate the work of PWS&D training Mayan women in theology and development. Her work was linked with projects that are supported by the WMS.

Thanks to Mary Lou Johnston, left asking boys their times tables, for the article and photos on pages 4-7 except where noted otherwise.

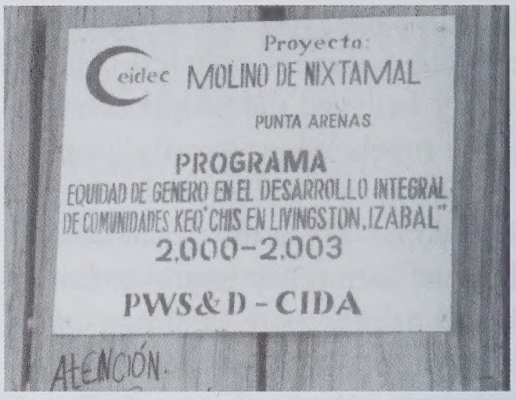
Knox Church in Dunnville, Ontario. We contributed the materials for the building of a prototype bamboo house, helped a little in its construction, and visited other remote communities to see projects. The hikes to these villages were pretty strenuous! To get to the work site, it meant an hour-long ride by boat each day through blue waters surrounded on every side by swamps and mountains. In an area which is very hot and humid, the breezes during the ride were very much appreciated!

The people in Puntarenas are of the Mayan Quek'chi language for whom the bamboo construction was a new concept. So other Mayan men as well as CEIDEC leaders came from the south to teach the method. It was fascinating to see a house assembled in a few days. The foundations were of cement into which corner posts were set; a bamboo frame was made by wiring pieces together, and onto the frames were nailed thinner strips of bamboo.

Two frames with space for doors and windows for each side of the house were erected against the posts. A metal roof instead of the normal thatched roof was added. Eventually plaster will make a smooth exterior to cover over the crack. Bamboo is not native to the area but grows easily and soon will be a cheap local material available for future houses.

The women took turns preparing our lunch each day, usually a chicken soup or a whole little fish and always the tortillas. When the children were not in school, they were very intrigued by the unusual activity and the strangers who were doing some of the work.

Once Victor and his friends had an exercise book and when we posed some



Signs indicate support of CIDA and PWS&D.

math questions in our halting Spanish, they knew their times tables very well.

Everybody was probably most surprised to see the Canadian women in our group wielding a hammer and saw. How did we communicate with anyone on this expedition? Our missionary in Guatemala, Ken Kim, accompanied us at all times and translated continuously till he was ready to drop.

This experience enabled us to see firsthand the work of PWS&D's partner CEIDEC. The people in the communities live very simply by our standards but are better off than in the crowded barrios of the cities. The Mayans are more organized than in the past so that opportunities may develop in the field of education. Some children are already attending an upper level school down the river. Perhaps Victor will be able to go some day if his father can do without his labour.

The community has been persecuted and oppressed in the past but slowly its quality of life is improving and CEIDEC is playing a major role in this process. It is good that our mission team and our national church through PWS&D can continue be a part of Christ's mission among these Mayan people.

Above: Women using corn mill in CEIDEC program.

To One of the Least of These...

by Ruby Jaggernath

As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family…

Rev. Elizabeth (Betty) McLagan of Langley, BC recently visited mission projects in El Salvador and Nicaragua and observed examples of "doing unto others" which are partly financed by Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).

The group Betty traveled with first visited a medical clinic in Chancuyo, northern El Salvador. The clinic is in a cement block building. PWS&D paid for building materials, but it was built by local labour and is run by a board of local residents. Because people had no experience in managing such a facility they also received some management training. Betty notes that they make mistakes, too, but they have to live with those mistakes, and so learn from them.

Many homes in El Salvador are heated by wood. Wood smoke causes many eye problems. The clinic deals with this as well as with dental and other medical problems. Medical care is provided by a dedicated young doctor who works four hours every morning, five days a week, for $4.00 an hour. North American pharmacies donate date-expired medicines which are still useable, but cannot be sold here.

In south Chancuyo the observation group visited a Women's Institute financed jointly by PWS&D and IMU. The institute trains women in skills such as cooking, agriculture and sewing. Women come to the institute from various villages, learn skills and return to their villages to teach others. Training is needed because, due to war and insurrection in the country, these skills often are not handed down to the young people. Although they can pick wild fruits and vegetables, without gardening skills the quality of nutrition had dropped very low.

With as much as 46% unemployment in the country men often cannot support their families. They become discouraged and leave home, with the woman as sole support for the family.

Housing is also in short supply. A family can get micro credit to buy land, livestock or a sewing machine. If they purchase land, PWS&D will provide funds to put up a house. With the interest-free money they borrow, women start a small business to support their families. Despite poverty 99% of the loans are repaid out of the profits from selling their produce or products at the local market.

In Nicaragua the group visited a high school where students learn trade skills. Many of the students are "street kids." Although they have a home, they sell wares on the streets in the morning. In the

afternoon, if they have a uniform and money for a small tuition fee, they attend school. PWS&D has set up technical or trade schools where 13- and 14-year-old boys can learn skills such as running a printing press. These young people improve their reading skills, learn editing and produce their own newspapers. The institute also teaches things like silk printing on fabric, art and weaving.

As well as impoverished families, the elderly often need support, and there is no government safety net. Due to poverty, many families cannot support the elderly, and they are destitute. A Roman Catholic nun started caring for these elderly people. PWS&D provided funding to put up a building and 47 people now live there, only two of whom can pay for their care.

A couple of years ago, a minister from Peachland visited the home. When he saw that the laundry was done entirely by hand, he returned to Canada and led his congregation in raising money to pay for a washing machine.

Rev. McLagan points out that these projects follow the teaching,:

Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

Creation

Creation is - not was
Wind and rain break down the granite cliffs
Creating dunes and softly rolling hills.

Volcanoes, tidal waves, earthquakes, floods
Droughts, wars and pestilence
Wear and erode our faith
We fall

Like polished grains of sand
We shift within the tides
Until our souls laid bare
We can, at last
Reflect our God of love.

Vera Jensen

Vera Jensen is a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, retired teacher, writer and gardener. The joys and fears, the tears and laughter these professions encompass are reflected in her poetry and prose. "Add my little old house," she says, "steps from the beach on the east coast of Vancouver Island, throw in the general wear and tear, aches and pains of approaching old age, add a generous dollop if imagination, a good measure of faith and hope and you have whatever it is I am today."

Global Awareness: Cuba

As a part of the Global Awareness program, many of the "In Ministry year" (final year) students from the Presbyterian College, Montreal, Quebec, visited Cuba in early January. This was an intensive eight-day trip. The group spent three days in Havana learning about Cuban culture and the Cuban economy. Another five days were spent at the Seminario Evangélico de Telogia in Matanzas with other seminarians from around the world in theological reflection, discussion and travels in the area. The following are three student reflections on their experience in Cuba. For a number of years the Women's Missionary Society has given student grants towards this exposure trip.

The "Gang" with a gift given to Presbyterian College, Montreal by a Baptist woman in Matanzas. Left to right: back row - Reid Chudley, Clyde Ervine, Tim Bruneau; front - Mary Anne Grant, Gwen Roberts, Linda Pasmore, Rick Cleaver.

Reid Chudley:

Cuba holds a mythical quality for many North Americans. What is it like to live in a 'communist' state? Images of the "Cold War" Soviet Union as displayed in Hollywood movies brings images of police checkpoints, cruel dictators and a "Big Brother" type of surveillance. I have to admit that I had some ideas about what Cuba might be like, but I could not have been more surprised. I was also curious about the Church, what would it look like under the atheistic 'communist' system.

Indeed the Church for many years had experienced different degrees of persecution. At the time of the Revolution, some pastors were even interned in labour camps for a time. The Church rapidly declined in community population, as people began to turn to the government for social assistance and direction. The communist revolution in Cuba virtually eliminated poverty and brought in an era of unparalleled access to education and health care. The Church at this time lost a lot of its social identity. It was forbidden for the Church to implement community services as this would cause division in a people who were to be devoted only to the party.

The Church survived as a remnant for the next thirty years. The Revolution had left Cuba spiritually orphaned by the Western Church and its wealth as well as its theologies laden with colonial and Western ideals. During this period a rich theology of liberation, with a strong Latin American identity began to take root across the central American region and made in-roads into Cuba. The faithful remnant was able to learn again about Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ separated from Western culture; Jesus Christ for the Cuban people and head of their Church.

Sometimes I have thought that Jesus must be the same for everybody. We must worship Jesus in the same way and with the same styles. Cuba has given me pause to wonder. This prompted me to consider the early Church. Since the earliest days of the Church, it was filled with Jews and Gentiles alike. It was filled with distinct people and clearly Jesus meant salvation for these two people but he was also different for these two peoples.

For the Jew, Jesus meant a new relationship to the Law. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul recounts his confrontation with Peter. According to Paul, Peter wanted to have it both ways. "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" (Gal. 2:14).

Peter knew what the Gospel meant, but he perhaps also wanted some cultural comfort and conformation within the Christian fellowship. Therefore, for the believing Jew, Jesus meant giving up the familiar ways of the culture that had been shaped by the law. They left all the ceremonial laws behind for a greater freedom, yet at a cost to some cultural comforts.

For the Gentile believer Jesus meant adoption into the people of God, through faith. It meant casting away any other worship. It meant giving up all the gods that they had grown up with for the worship of the One true God. Worship of the emperor was required of any Roman by the state, but not tolerated in the Church. It meant giving up cultural things as well. Many things that were acceptable in Greek culture were not continued in the early Church. Faith in Jesus meant conformation to a righteous praxis in daily living. Many of the Greek philosophies were given up.

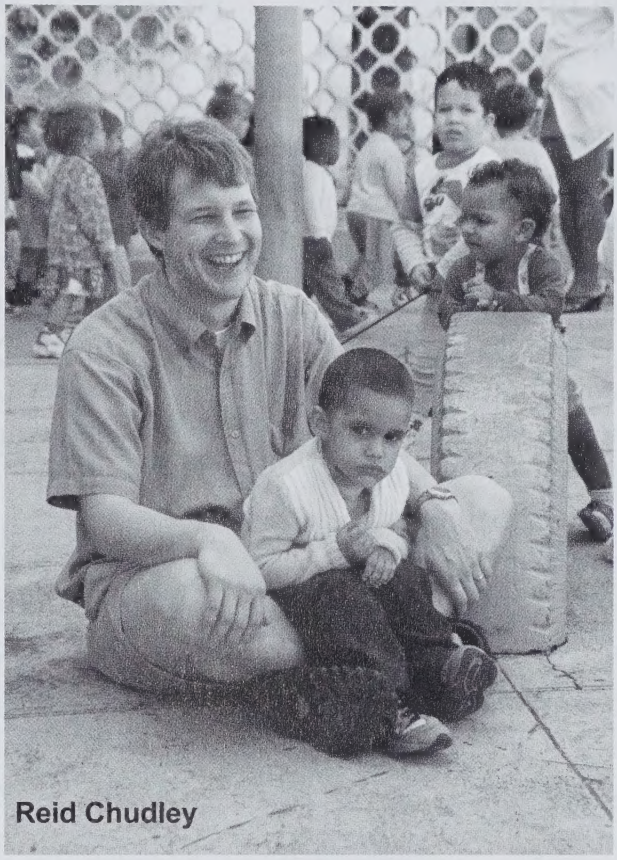
Jesus meant different things to these two very different people. Jesus meant that God was for them and not against them. Jesus demonstrated the great love of God for all believers. This has made me reflect on the vastness of God's infinite being. God is not only just what I see or my church sees; God is so much more. Jesus Christ is the love of God come down to us for all time for all cultures. Jesus manifests his love for all of God's children regardless of time or place. Jesus is not bound by Canadian or Cuban understandings of him. The truth is he is larger than both, more complete than both. Jesus continues to meet the faithful, wherever, whenever.

Mary Anne Grant

There are nearly three million children in Cuba. All are entitled to a free education and medical care. My brief global awareness trip left me with the following impressions gleaned from lectures, my exposure to the sights, sounds, and personal experiences to children in Havana, Matanzas and Sabanilla.

At the Iglesia Reformed Presbyterian Church, Luyano, Ciudad, Habana, on the first Sunday of the New Year, smiling children sat in the front pews of the overcrowded congregation. An older girl and boy assisted in a presentation about the Wise Men. Two small baskets were on the Communion Table. All the children gave an offering. "We give you our gifts, everything that we have. What are you going to give him as a parent?" was the message read out loud before they left for Sunday School. After worship, our group presented the superintendent with pencils and chalk for the children's use.

We toured two day care facilities in Matanzas. Everyone was excited to see us. We walked among both shy and welcoming children sharing smiles, touches, hugs, shoulder rides and a few tears. In the preschool center, little children played with simple toys made from empty plastic detergent bottles. Inside was an old used hair curler as a noisemaker. A special moment for me was when I had held out my hand for someone to touch. Suddenly, children lined up and gave gentle but fun hand slaps with five of them in turn kissing me softly on my right cheek.


Reid Chudley

Our informal visit to an orphanage outside of Matanzas provided us with an opportunity to learn how churches are helping children who have no one to care for them. Among some of the items that we left were toothbrushes, tooth paste and vitamins.

A special brightly painted yellow bus given to the Seminario Evangelico de Teologia of Matanzas by "Pastors for Peace" from the USA took us to Sabanilla, an extremely poor town where children were not as visible because they were in school. In elementary school, red uniforms are worn with white tops. Junior high and secondary students wear yellow with white blouses or shirts. Brown is for mechanical school students while the computer students wear blue. All state teachers wear blue skirts or pants with white short-sleeved tops.

Depending on the time of day, as we drove on the bus and bounced on its hard seats through the narrow streets of Matanzas, we could see children either going to or coming from school. Everyone carried a book bag. Smaller children were always with an adult, usually their mothers. Most girls had colorful clips or ribbons in their tied-back hair. Many boys were grouped together and enjoyed playing the game "spindle."

There are 40 children living at the Seminary whose parents are in various stages of theological study. They were a delight to see daily, especially in the care of their only goat, "Seeba." It was noted that poorer community children were given needed items first then the principal Dr. Ofelia Ortega gave the remaining things to these girls and boys.

We learned on a tour of a pediatric hospital that five cents in Cuban money can help a child for10 days fight a bacterial infection. Ten thousand children were treated last year.

Ediciones Vigia, a handmade paper- and book-publishing company was another place we toured. It sponsors poster contests. This idea promotes literacy for children.

One of five main priorities of the Seminary has been helping neighboring schools, the orphanage, and the diet of the vision-impaired children through its ecological concerns. It is my understanding that children of all ages in rural areas are at a lesser advantage than urban areas and suffer with fewer resources such as food and school supplies. There is an evident imbalance in life and education due to residence and socioeconomic status. I think that the USA Embargo hinders children's welfare. The reality is that even though the children that I saw were happy and clean and that as a 'communist' country Cuba values their children, their autonomy is quite limited.

Gwen Roberts

On the way to Sabanilla, I wondered what the day would bring. Who would touch my heart today? In my eyes I saw a new Cuba filled with promise and hope. Where would I see Jesus at work on this bright sunny day?

Sabanilla was a extremely poor community of down trodden souls. Some are mentally challenged, the elderly without family, and God's angels who care for them. I entered the small Presbyterian church with an open heart. Jesus said, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

I believe that we are sent into the world to be a people of reconciliation: to heal, to love, to break down the walls between the insiders and the outsiders. If we dare to believe that we are beloved by God before we are born, should we not pass on this message to our brothers and sisters globally as well as locally?

The people in Sabanilla reached out to me in vulnerability and in my own vulnerability I reached out to them in love. Because of God's grace I was able to see Christ's love shining in their faces. In love there was no language barrier. In love there was unity of believing that we are all God's beloved children.

Judy, a mentally challenged woman, touched my heart. She approached me timidly not knowing if I would welcome her. Smiling, I said "hello," ('ola' in Spanish). She responded with her toothless grin and began to tell me a long story. I listened intently and responded, "Si," with God's Spirit. She began to cry and I held her in my arms. I sensed her need to be held in love. When she finished crying I said, "Jesus (Yay-soos) loves you." "Si," she replied.

"If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?" (Romans 8: 31-32).

Waving goodbye!

YMCA: Still Christian after all these years?

by Jeff Dewsbury

With the growing list of NBA players adding records to their resumes, it is becoming increasingly ironic that basketball was invented by a Canadian clergyman.

James Naismith [a Presbyterian] originated the game at a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) training school in 1891, to keep some rough young rugby and football players from getting restless during the winter months.

Volleyball is also the product of the Y, and of their combination of athletic and spiritual development. But much to the chagrin of today's hard-core volleyballers, the Y's web site says William Morgan invented the game at a YMCA because he felt that "basketball was too strenuous for businessmen."

YMCA meeting the needs of soldiers during World War I.

Just as the NBA's bad boys have diverged from Naismith's plan, and volleyball has evolved from Morgan's original goal, the Y itself has strayed far from its Christian beginnings.

As an organization, the YMCA has few detractors anywhere on the globe. It is no exaggeration to say that the list of social movements, athletic achievements and societal leaders that have emerged from the Y is enormous. The organization's determination to meet holistic needs of individuals—and, in turn, society—has led to its leadership roles in health and welfare issues, employment services, support for those in the military, athletics and child development.

With its founding emphasis on brawn and Bible, the Y has also done its share of telling the world that Christians aren't (or, at least, don't have to be) wimps. However, the message today isn't as strong or in-your-face as it was back in the barrios of Chicago in the 1800s.

While the present-day Y shows faint imprints of the soul-stirring of the past, it takes a lowest common denominator approach to spiritual issues that is inclusive of all faiths. Its evangelistic history—the list of spiritual 'heavyweights' that were synonymous with the organization in the past—contrasts so greatly with today's 'soft sell' approach, that it would now be misleading to call the Y a Christian organization.

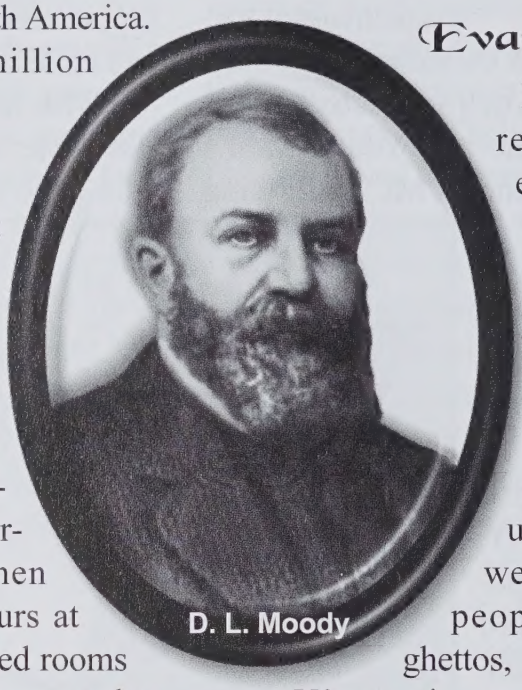
Nonetheless, the main page of their web site (www.ymca.net) says their mission is to: "Put Christian

principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all." Ironically, while they put their Christian roots front and centre—a decidedly outdated tactic in the pluralistic, largely urban areas where they thrive—they are about as mainstream as an organization can get. There's a Y in the centre of most large communities in North America. Worldwide, the Y has 30 million members in 110 countries.

Many faces

Although he didn't know it at the time, George Williams ushered in the idea of a parachurch group, when he began the first Y in 1844 in London, England. Williams and some fellow businessmen were motivated to help the hordes of overworked, underpaid young men who were putting in long hours at factories, often living in crowded rooms above where they worked. They wanted to give the men both something to do and something to live for, so they started a group that organized Bible studies and prayer meetings—and eventually, athletic competitions. From one man's response to the fallout of the industrial revolution evolved an organization that has many faces and missions.

In 1862 the Y became that first civilian organization dedicated to helping prisoners and servicemen involved in the American Civil War, earning the endorsement of Abraham Lincoln. At the time, the Y gave one million Bibles to soldiers on both sides of the conflict. The first Father's Day celebration occurred at a YMCA in Spokane Washington in 1909. The organization was also a forerunner in designing financial retirement plans for their employees, beginning their first fund in 1922—at a time when such concerns were relegated to churches, which concentrated their efforts on orphans and widows.


D. L. Moody

Evangelists

Many of the revered American evangelists of the 1800s had a strong connection with the YMCA.

Men like D.L. Moody and Billy Sunday, who would mix things up on the streets and weren't afraid to get people talking in the ghettos, fit in well with the Y's tactic to save young men through giving them something physical to do and something spiritual to ponder.

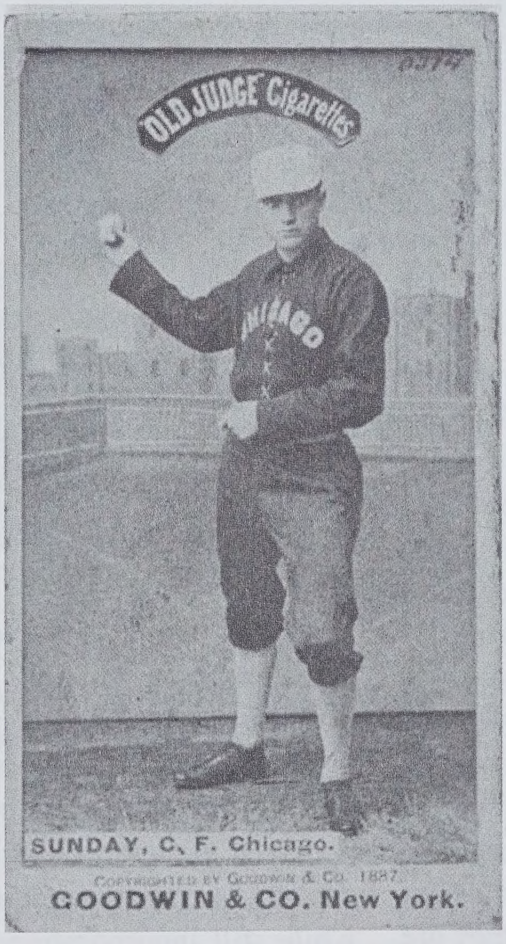
Eventually, the Y became known as the modern birthplace of the melding of athletics and Christianity—which exemplified the term 'muscular Christianity.' In those days, evangelism was a strong component of the organization. Moody and his successors didn't just use the facilities; they were part of a movement that made proclaiming the gospel a priority.

Like Moody, John R. Mott was an evangelist who worked through the Y's mission. Mott, who became a Christian at the age of 13 through the work of a YMCA evangelist in Iowa, promoted

missions and ecumenism. He formed international missionary councils, wrote books and inspired students worldwide to develop a passion for missions. In 1946, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his achievements in this area.

Mott's dedication to ecumenism likely played a strong role in developing the Y's brand of inclusiveness—which still manages to keep faith, in general, as an element of its mission. Throughout his ministry, he always kept close ties to the organization. He formed the Y-sponsored Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (1888), headed the Y's National War Council initiatives (1917) and was the chairman of the World Alliance of YMCAs in the mid 1920s.

One of the more colourful characters to get a start in evangelism through the YMCA was baseball star William Ashley 'Billy' Sunday.



Starting in 1883, he played for the Chicago White Stockings, and was a renowned major leaguer for seven years.

Sunday accepted Christ in 1886, and in 1891, he left his very lucrative baseball career to work for low wages at the Chicago YMCA, as a secretary in the religious department. He quit in 1896, and went on to become one of the 20th century's most successful—and flamboyant—crusading evangelists.

A variety of other world-changing Christians maintained close relationships with the Y throughout their lives. Many of these men attended programs at the Y when they were boys—such as Jack Wyrtzen who, when he was 11 years old, first heard the Bible at a woodworking class in the local Y. Fletcher Brockman, Cyrus McCormack, John Wanamaker, and 'chalk drawing' evangelist Warner Sallman all had strong connections.

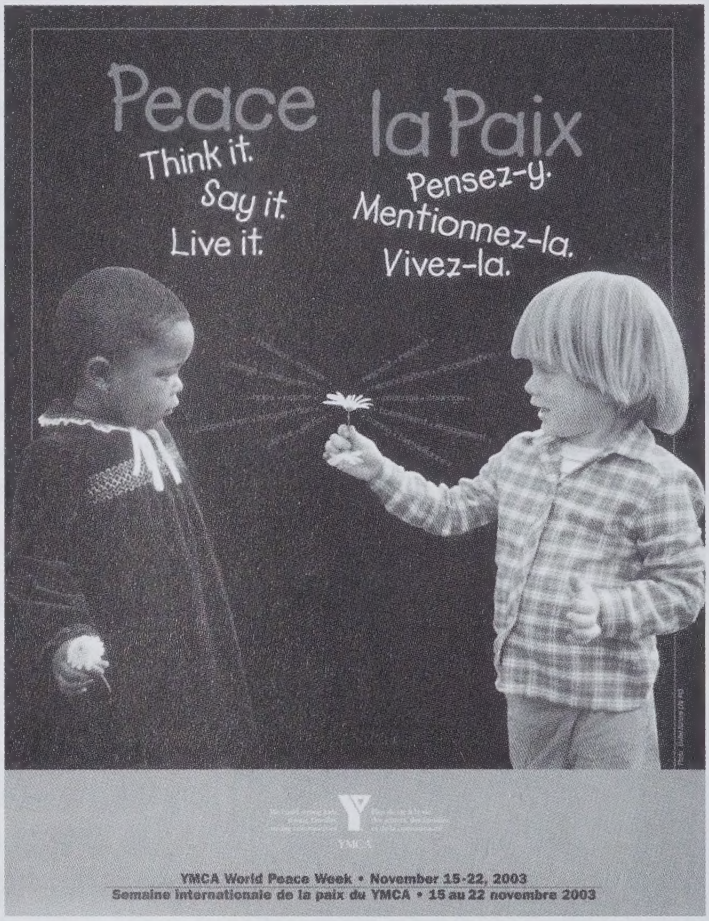
Today's emphasis

Over the decades, the emphasis on evangelism at the Y died out in North America; however, this isn't the case in all areas of the world. While the Y is known to be a unified organization, the individual YMCAs are compatible with their local societies.

Jeremy Bell, pastor of Kitsilano Christian Community, a Baptist church in Vancouver, has been involved in many faith based initiatives through the Y for more than a decade. According to Bell, in places like India, where Christians are a minority, and Iceland—which he describes as "functionally agnostic"—the Y stands out as a place for Christians to meet and express their faith; however, things are more 'watered down' in North America.

John Woolgar, head of the YMCA in Surrey, B.C. and a graduate of Trinity Western University, says there aren't a lot of tensions between Christian who would want to see the Y closer to its evangelical roots and those who favour a more mainstream approach.

He believes that, in the end, everyone agrees on the same basic values and principles, and that Christians are free to be involved as much as they want without feeling pressure to be secular in what is essentially a public place.



YMCA's 2003 World Peace Week resource booklet.

"The YMCA [head office] in Canada plays a support role rather than a parental role" in local chapters, says Woolgar. While they are free to decide how openly they want to express their Christianity, most of the branches here opt to keep the founding faith in the background. YMCAs in parts of Asia, Africa and South America are "strongly evangelical," says Woolgar, The Y's international headquarters in Geneva also hosts an annual week of prayer.

In North America, the group takes its founding verse-John 17:21, "that all of them may be one"—to mean that they are inclusive of all faiths, while still recognizing the Y's founding beliefs. "We realize that Christian values are similar to other religions, but that we get those values and principles from our heritage in Christianity," says Woolgar.

While most people grow up thinking of the Y as the place with the pool and the basketball courts, the organization has made a commitment to spirit, mind and body in their programs —and, in some cases, even their buildings. The Surrey Family YMCA has tried to incorporate these three elements into the architecture of their new facility. In the past, they had a chapel that was rarely used.

The new Y now has a 'centre for reflection' aimed at attracting soul searchers who may feel more comfortable in an environment that doesn't look or feel like a traditional church.

This approach is indicative of the 'small c' Christian status that the organization has adopted. Opening prayers and a nod to 'Christian Principles' on their web site is a far cry from the days when the Y, while still incorporating mind, body and

soul, made it clear that a relationship with Christ was ultimately the only road to 'health' in its many forms.

Mission Fields attempted to contact the presidents of both the U.S. and Canadian branches of the Y. But the hoped-for interviews never materialized—leaving the impression that the CEOs were uncomfortable discussing Christianity and the Y.

Presbyterian, James Naismith at a training school in Massachusetts.

While there has been a clear watering down of the message, Bell says the Y's brand of pluralism—where people are free to express their faith as a major component of who they are—is better than the syncretism that can emerge when true faith is excluded from public groups.

"I like [former B.C. Lieutenant-Governor] David Lam's words—that we should not just tolerate each other, because tolerance is like holding your nose and taking it," he says, adding that a healthy version of pluralism means "everyone gets to stand on the street corner and say what they think."

The YMCA, he concludes, "are good folks who have stopped being overtly Christian [as an organization], but have adapted to allow people to speak."

Jeff Dewsbury is a freelance writer who writes for *BC Christian News* and *Mission Fields*. Reprinted from *Mission Fields* with permission. Photos are archival.

Does anyone have information on the YWCA?!

The Butterfly

She is just a little butterfly
Who doesn't have a care,
So she flitters and she flutters
And she dances in the air.

What matter tomorrow
When today is fair?
So she skimmers and she shimmers
And she dances in the air.

Frances Woodson

Help Me Build a Castle

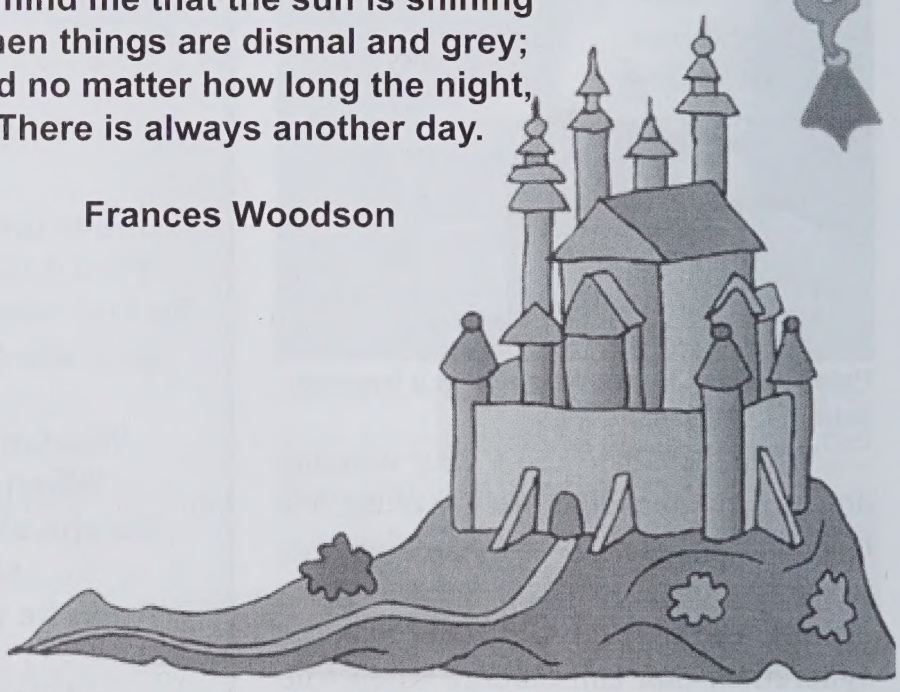
Help me to envision a garden -
There are only weeds around;
And to build a castle in the sky -
There is only a cottage on the ground.

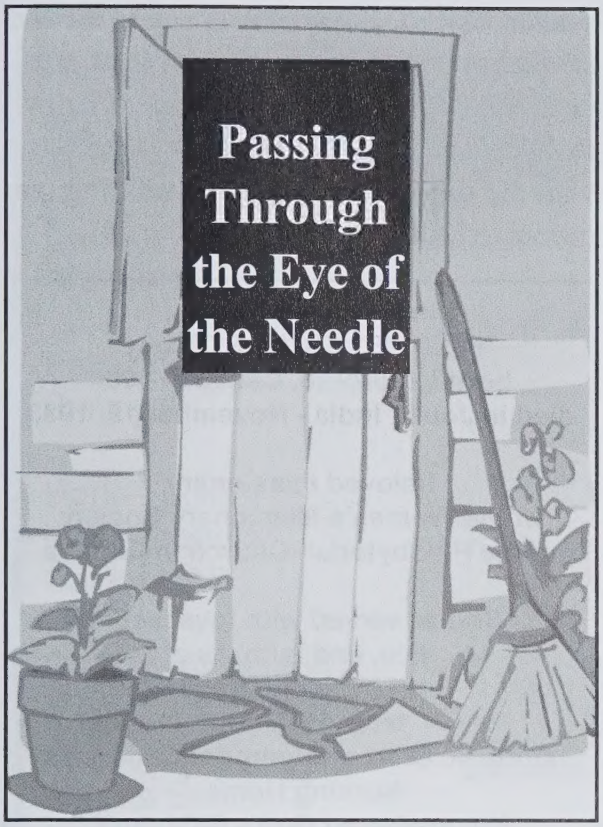
Let me know that there is beauty,
Hidden as it may be;
And to be able to see goodness
That is difficult to see.

If I must march though tired,
Help me not to miss a beat;
And keep me gazing upward
Where there is only mire at my feet.

Remind me that the sun is shining
When things are dismal and grey;
And no matter how long the night,
There is always another day.

Frances Woodson





by Roberta McClelland

There is a passage in Matthew 19:24 which reads, "...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (RSV)

It is an ambiguous passage, which could easily be taken literally to mean that wealth—especially excessive wealth—is a sinful state. But if we look deeper, beyond what is literal, we can see that it actually offers a dynamic and far more reassuring message about the meaning of suffering and our spiritual need for the way that it transforms us.

When we are suffering we often look at those who are not with envy, and we wish for all the world that we could change places with them and live their charmed and seemingly effortless lives instead of our own.

But suffering is an integral and necessary part of our spirituality. As believers we are all given the freedom to choose faith or to turn away from it at any given moment, and we need to have that freedom put to the test occasionally through the chastening experience of suffering in order to strengthen our determination to continuously choose, and value our faith as we pass through the unpredictable terrain of life.

Spiritual growth does not come from the stagnancy of a day to day life that doesn't challenge us and our faith, but rather it comes from purposely struggling to turn more deeply to God and faith when we are in pain. I know from my own experience that my prayers have been deeper when I have poured out my heart in a moment of agony; that my Saviour has been a far more powerful part of my life when I have looked, in the midst of my own desolation, loneliness, and pain into the eyes of Jesus who was rejected, insulted, painfully put to death, and abandoned by almost all of those He loved.

I know that my faith meant more to me when I struggled to find it, to hang onto it, and to receive its support. It is at these times that my faith has made the dynamic transition from being merely a part of my life to being lifegiving. And this is what it has always been meant to be.

Adversity doesn't just build character—it builds a meaningful and lasting relationship with God, and a deep appreciation for the reassurance and the support that our faith gives. I believe that the rich man in the passage from Matthew is a powerful example of a person (and a soul) that was never tested. He was given all the

good things in life and none of the bad, and so his faith was left at a superficial level, unchallenged.

Faith never went below the skin of the rich man, and it never meant anything significant to him because he had no reason to reach for it, to see himself in it or to believe that he needed it. As a result, this man's faith was so inadequately developed that it was nearly impossible for him to enter heaven and to approach a God whom he had never truly come to know in his lifetime of ease.

It is through the necessity of suffering that we come to know the God who dwells within us on an intimate level, and that our faith deepens and becomes stronger. Once we know the God whom we have learned to find within ourselves, we approach Him more readily and with clearer recognition and a well developed faith…and the eye of the needle becomes, for us, an open door, welcoming us home every time!

Mildred Soutar Remembered

When the WMS learned that the grave of former missionary to the Bhil field Mildred Soutar did not have a marking $150 was sent for an appropriate stone. When president Joanne Instance (left in photo below) visited the grave she found a large stone with the following inscription, a fitting memorial to Mildred's service.

In loving memory of
MILDRED SOUTAR, Reg.N.
born in Toronto, Canada - 1900
died in Jobat, India - November 19, 1933

beloved missionary
of the Women's Missionary Society
of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Miss Soutar served with love, self-sacrifice, and faith, as a
missionary to the children in Amkhut
from 1930-1933
at the M. G. Abey Memorial Children's
Nursing Home.
"She mothered God's little ones."

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one
of the least of these my little
ones, you have have done it unto me.

Dedicated to the loving memory of Miss
Mildred Soutar by
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
November 2003

Inset: Mildred Soutar

Honorary Memberships - 2003

Deborah Miller
Armstrong, BC

Pat Zondag
Surrey, BC

Hope Fuglem
Marg Tourigny
Calgary, AB

Dorothy Anderson
Medicine Hat, AB

Alberta Smith
Tiverton, ON

Jean Hunter
Dundas, ON

Helen McIntosh
Viola McKay
Listowel, ON

Shirley Donaldson
Marjorie Wall
Wingham, ON

Anna Jean McCoskery
Strathroy, ON

Laura Papineau
Belleville, ON

Lois Smith
Lindsay, ON

Lorraine Dobbie
Spencerville, ON

Elizabeth Stewart
Barbara Rochford
Dunvegan, ON

Certificates of Recognition

Graham Shular
Southampton, ON

Gloria Town
Gay Cochrane
Paris, ON

Jim Smith
Jonathan Stephen
Thornhill, ON

Andrew Woodward
Port Hope, ON

Jean Oliver
Clara Baetz
Merilees Ridsdale
Janet Simpson
Cambridge, ON

Howard Dearlove
Montreal, QC

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

Human Security Issues: HIV/AIDS Pandemic

HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest threats to global human security. Its impact threatens the national security and stability of a growing number of states. This illness is not limited to sub-Saharan countries; it is on the rise in Asia as well. HIV prevalence in China rose by an alarming 67% during the first half of 2001!

In addition to claiming the lives of men, women and children, HIV/AIDS is also an economic problem. In January 2000 Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, wrote:

By overwhelming the continent's health and social services, by creating millions of orphans, and by decimating health workers and teachers, AIDS is causing social and economic crises which in turn threaten political security. To finance the struggle against AIDS, TB and Malaria, the UN established The Global Fund, which is supposed to raise US $10 billion annually . Canada has committed $150 million over four years, which is about $1 a year for every Canadian. The Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD) is urging the Canadian government to provide additional resources to The Global Fund. It is also pressing for removal of trade barriers to ensure the export of generic drugs to developing countries.

Presbyterians support AIDS/HIV health care and educational programs through Presbyterians Sharing... and PWS&D. It is Time for Justice! Provide generously for this work and uphold those affected by HIV/AIDS in prayer.

It is Time for Justice! Pray that we may be faithful in accepting our own vulnerability and fulfill our calling to protect the weak and the vulnerable and so provide a measure of human security in this insecure world.

TEXT: Dineke Kraay **EDITING & DESIGN: Gail Turner**

Bible Animals

by Jim Phillips

A	H	R	D	C	A	M	E	L
N	O	G	A	R	D	P	I	A
O	R	O	S	M	O	O	T	M
B	S	A	H	L	N	I	S	B
A	E	T	E	H	K	F	U	E
T	M	T	E	C	E	N	C	A
N	N	B	P	G	Y	K	O	R
A	R	J	A	C	K	A	L	E
W	O	R	M	U	L	E	E	E
L	S	J	P	P	I	G	O	D

ANT - Proverbs 6:6

ANTELOPE - Isaiah 51:20

BAT - Leviticus 11:19

BEAR - Amos 5:19

CAMEL - Genesis 12:16

DEER - Psalm 42:1

DOG - Exodus 22:31

DONKEY - Matthew 21:5

DRAGON - Revelation 12:7-9

GOAT - Genesis 27:9

HORSE - Genesis 49:17

JACKAL - Isaiah 35: 7

LAMB - Leviticus 3:7

LION - II Samuel 1:23

LOCUST - Exodus 10:4

MULE - I Kings 18:5

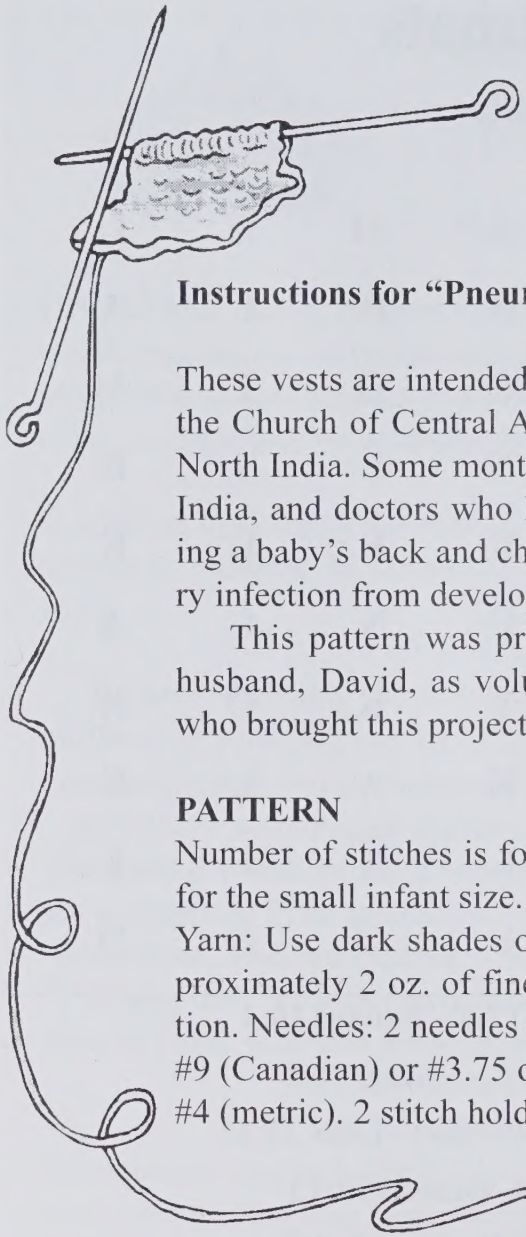
PIG (Swine) - Luke 15:15

RAM- Genesis 22:13

SHEEP - Genesis 4:2

WORM - Jonah 4:7

Scripture references are from different versions including the King James Version and the Jerusalem Bible.



KNITTING MATTERS

Instructions for "Pneumonia Prevention" Vests

These vests are intended for babies born at or admitted to the hospitals of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and the Church of North India. Some months of the year can be quite cold in Malawi and in India, and doctors who have worked in hospitals there tell us that keeping a baby's back and chest warm is a vital factor in preventing respiratory infection from developing into possibly fatal pneumonia.

This pattern was provided by Miriam Barrie who served with her husband, David, as volunteers in Malawi for several years. It was she who brought this project to our attention.

PATTERN

Number of stitches is for a 12 months size. The numbers in brackets are for the small infant size.

Yarn: Use dark shades of synthetic yarn for practicality in washing. Approximately 2 oz. of fine soft yarn. Use scraps to make stripes for variation. Needles: 2 needles #8 or #9 (Canadian) or #3.75 or #4 (metric). 2 stitch holders

Front: Cast on 60 (48) stitches
Knit 9 or 10 inches in garter stitch (9 inches for small size)

Neck opening: Put 20 (16) stitches on stitch holder
Cast off next 20 (16) stitches for neck edge. Do not make this edge too firm to allow for stretching over the head.
Knit on remaining 20 (16) stitches for 3 (2) inches for right shoulder. Put these stitches on a stitch holder.
Pick up the 20 (16) stitches from the first stitch holder and knit 3 (2) inches for left shoulder.

Back: On last row of left shoulder cast on 20 (16) stitches loosely for

back of neck opening. Pick up stitches from first stitch holder. You now have 60 (48) stitches on needle. Knit back to correspond with front.

Finishing; Sew up sides beginning at the bottom. Leave a space approximately 3 inches long (from top of shoulder to bottom of arm hole) for arm holes. Tidy loose ends.

Another Way to Wash Feet

His feet are all I dare look at
count the toes, the knots on the sandals,
the calluses from feet
well acquainted with our rocky roads,
dust caked in the crevices between his toes.

I am a woman of sin
I feel each pin prick within
each wrong choice
each action, each taunt voiced—
let the tears begin.

With a note of shock, shame
I see each tear splatter, muddy His feet
and the tears fall faster, wet, full drops
I weep in silence, mouthing his name.

I have no cloth to repair the damage
I have wrought, unfasten the sandals
tug off both shoes...nothing to do but
towel His feet with my proud tresses,
humble my only glory before the Lord.

And retreat with His verbal benediction
ringing through my pierced heart
"daughter, your sins are forgiven".

Darlene Moore Berg

Darlene Berg is a US poet who has had poems published on line at www.utmostchristianwriters.com, www.amarillobay.org , and in print publications Time of Singing, A New Song, The Penwood Review, and a few others.

Passover

O Christ, our Passover Lamb,
Your Blood, sprinkled over the
Household of Faith,
Spares us from destruction.
The Father strikes down You, His
First born,
His Only Son, so that we might
live.
We, who should be at Your feet,
Are washed by Your humility.
And Your obedience unto death,
Even death upon a cross
Pardons us from all our sin.
May we never betray You with a
kiss.
Nor sell You for silver.
You, who ransomed us at so great
a price.

Sue Careless

Thoughts and Afterthoughts on Gossip

Compiled by Eve Stickland

Gossip is like mud thrown on a clean wall. It may not stick but it always leaves a dirty mark.

E.C. McKenzie. 14,000 Quips & Quotes p 214, 1980.

STAFF CHANGES:
Program and Marketing Coordinator

Alexis Dimson joined the WMS staff in March following fulfilling a contract in the Program department. While in that temporary position Alexis designed the WMS website. Her primary task is to create innovative and promotional materials for marketing the WMS. As well, Alexis will be responsible for the layout of the Glad Tidings.

Alexis was born and raised in Toronto. She obtained an honours BA in Law & Society and Sociology at York University; and then got a post-graduate certificate in Corporate Communication.

Alexis is a member of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Scarborough. She is the church's Webmaster and is always volunteering with worship and outreach initiatives. Alexis has been a Young Adult Representative for her Presbytery twice at General Assembly.

Her personal interests include the theatre, her two dogs and cat, her family, and great books and movies.

Alexis did her placement in the Resource Production and Communication department of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and enjoyed it so much she went on to work with the Archives. The WMS is fortunate to have her on board.

Forward in Faith

Our finance committee, which met just prior to the council meeting in mid-February, had before it requests of grants in the amount of some $75,000. These came from individuals, missionaries, congregations, presbyterial and synod/synodical committees, our colleges, mission institutions and the Youth in Mission program.

On recommendation to council executive, grants in the amount of $58,000 were approved. Money for the approved grants was available from special funds or they were within the terms of our endowment funds, i.e. The Isabella Brown Memorial Fund is for "a leadership training event or course that will equip the individual for some aspect of Christian service; The Louise Reith Memorial fund is to be used for "leadership development in synodicals or presbyterials."

In 2003, we approved grants in the amount of $130,545 from undesignated legacies. In 2002 the amount approved was $95,234. Undesignated legacy receipts in 2002 amount to $266,819, a much higher amount than usual. In 2003 they amounted to $71,407.

One of the grant requests considered by the finance committee was to assist with a food bank program. This request was not approved, inasmuch as many congregations across the church have similar programs. If we approved one, we would have to consider many similar requests, and we do not have sufficient funds to assist unlimited requests.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

Life Membership Certificates and Pins

Certificates

In Memoriam Certificate - $25.00
Life Membership Certificate - $50.00
Honorary Certificate - $100.00
Recognition Certificate -
Adult & Youth $25.00
Children $10.00

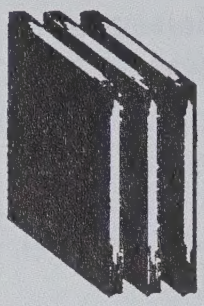
Pins & Charms

Gold Filled Membership Pin - $55.00
Gold Filled Honorary Pin - $90.00
Certificate of Recognition Pin/ Charm - $26.75
(All above include GST & postage)

Life Membership, Honorary, In Memoriam and Recognition Certificates are processed through the Presbyterial Treasurers. The pins can be ordered from the WMS office, attention Katherine Allen.

Council 2004

May 2-5
Crieff Hills
Puslinch, Ontario
Justice: Not Just Us



BOOKS

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Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation. Note: VISA and MasterCard now accepted.

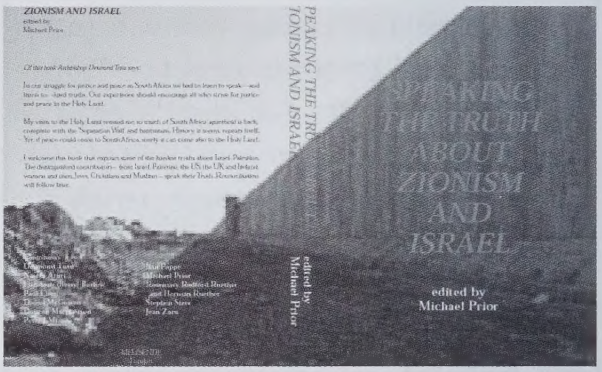
The Gospel According to Tolkien—Visions of the Kingdom in Middle-earth by Ralph Wood. $23.75

My life is not absorbed with *The Lord of the Rings*. It took me two months to see the final movie, *Return of the King,* following its release. Unlike most Tolkien fans, I did not know how it was going to end. My husband on the other hand has read the trilogy several times, and is able to name all the discrepancies between the books and the movies. After spending some time in Ralph Wood's, *The Gospel According to Tolkien—Visions of the Kingdom in Middle-earth*, we would both suggest that it is only for the true fan.

Getting through the book was a real challenge for me. Being familiar with the movies, and having attempted to get through the trilogies more that once, I found I was constantly getting bogged down in the language of the book. The names of characters and places were a lot to keep track of for this 'pseudo' fan. Even my husband found that Wood referred to writings beyond the trilogy that he was not familiar with.

I would not suggest this book for a study within your church unless there is a Tolkien addict willing to take the lead and help the group through the book. It does provide some great connections, and is careful to not alter Tolkien's books to correlate with the Gospels, but it would require someone with extensive knowledge of the trilogy and a willingness to seek out other resources. It would also make a great gift for the Tolkien addicts in your life.

Colleen (Smith) Wood



Speaking the Truth About Zionism and Israel. Edited by Michael Prior. Melisende, London.

Hot off the press! This book is as up-to-date as it can be in addressing the truth about the situation in the Middle East.

Of this book Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, "In our struggle for justice and peace in South Africa we had to learn to speak—and listen—to hard truths. Our experience should encourage all who strive for justice and peace in the Holy Land.

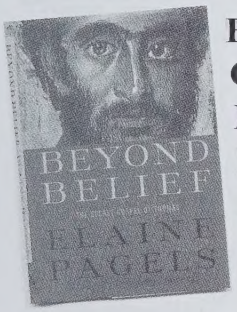
"My visits to the Holy Land remind me so much of South Africa: apartheid is back,

complete with the 'Separation Wall' and bantustans. History, it seems repeats itself. Yet, if peace could come to South Africa, surely it can come also to the Holy Land.

"I welcome this book that exposes some of the hardest truths about Israel-Palestine. The distinguished contributors —from Israel, Palestine, the US, the UK and Ireland, women and men, Jews, Christians and Muslims—speak their Truth. Reconciliation will follow later."

Contributors include Mr. Tutu, Rosemary Radford Ruether and Herman Ruether, among others. It is edited by Michael Prior.

Information on how to get *Speaking the Truth* can be obtained soon from The Book Room.



Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas by Elaine Pagels. Random House. New York $39.95

In a scholarly but clearly written text, Elaine Pagels sheds light on a difficult and controversial subject.

More than fifty early Christian texts unknown since antiquity were found rediscovered at Nag Hammadi, Upper Egypt in 1945, including the secret *Gospel of Thomas*. *Beyond Belief* seems to resonate with current times which have produced the controversial novel *The Da Vinci Code* and Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of Christ*, see both below. As much as they all give us insight into what might have been, they disturb our comfortable status quo.

Pagels explores how Christianity began by tracing its earliest texts and investigating what Jesus and his teachings meant to his followers before the invention of doctrine, and before the invention of Christianity as we know it.

The Gospel of Thomas, it seems, was in conflict with the *Gospel of John*. Pagels, through exhaustive research with other scholars, came to see that these two gospels, possibly written about the same time, take the same teachings of Jesus in sharply different directions.

"Thomas's gospel encourages the hearer not so much to believe in Jesus, as John requires, as to seek to know God through one's own, divinely given capacity, since all are created in the image of God," Pagels says. She goes on to explain that the Gospel of John helped provide a foundation for a unified church for Christians in later generations, which Thomas did not.

Elaine Pagels "groundbreaking" work *The Gnostic Gospels* was published in 1979. After reading its heavy academic tone I almost hesitated to read *Beyond Belief.* However, this book is personal, beautifully written and moving. She tells of her young son's fatal illness and her own need to return to church for encouragement and support.

There isn't room here to explore more of this fascinating book except to say that its strength lies in how Pagels traces the development of the Christian church through its conflicts, creeds, orthodoxy and canons.

If you are curious about what books made it into the Bible and what ones didn't, and why, *Beyond Belief* is a very illuminating, easy to read book.

L. June Stevenson

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown. Doubleday. New York/Toronto. $37.95 Hardcover

Cleverly written, The Da Vinci Code, is mystery within mystery. If you read carefully you can almost be one step ahead of the author who carefully lays out the clues, then fills in the spaces with murders, unconventional escapes and a cast of intriguing characters who move with desperation across international boundaries.

I stopped reading Agatha Christie after devouring most of her murder mysteries by the time I was 25. I still like to be involved in solving the crime, however. Brown sets the scene early on in the famed Louvre in Paris when the murdered curator's last message is revealed, written in his own blood. His body, its nakedness and position, are in themselves clues.

Had I not known some of the background research that Brown delved into, I might have been shocked and disturbed. What he has to say is not new but I did admire the way he wove speculation around knowledge to produce a bestseller in a time when the world seems intent on trying to slip a wedge into the truth of Christ's humanity versus his divinity.

Like Andrew Faiz who reviewed the book in the February Presbyterian Record I "read *The Da Vinci Code* without once questioning my faith. It never occurred to me because, while I know the allegations are common...it doesn't matter to me. What matters is the Christ of my faith." Read it if you like a good mystery but don't expect the foundations of your faith to be shaken. Take it for what it is: a clever tale by an enterprising author.

L. June Stevenson

The Passion of the Christ. A movie directed by Mel Gibson: In a moment of weakness, or perhaps it was strength, I went alone to see *The Passion of Christ*. I would not recommend it to most people. If you want to experience almost unbearable brutality, particularly around the flogging of the Christ, and an over abundance of blood, then you might want to see the movie.

Gibson emphasizes this aspect of Jesus' suffering over everything else in the last 12 hours of his life. The crucifixion seems almost a relief at least after Jesus is graphically nailed to the cross and raised high above the Judean landscape. And the brief scene at the end of the movie hinting at the resurrection was superfluous. He should have left the movie to speak about Christ's death and suffering alone.

I have to say that the movie disturbed me and continues to do so. I felt strongly that if indeed this Jesus whom I love suffered so greatly then I have been less than faithful. If this Jesus died so brutally for the sins of the world then the world should be taking more notice. If that is in any way Gibson's purpose then I'm sure some viewers have been so moved.

Though I'm no expert I thought the cinematography was very good, the actors well chosen and I was moved at the tenderness in the flashbacks of Jesus to earlier, sweeter times. Perhaps that was more because of the relief they provided from the almost unrelenting violence.

That Jesus was truly human came across clearly. He was unswerving in his dedication to his purpose on earth and in his submission to God's will. He bore his suffering with dignity and to the end was a servant Lord. I am looking forward now to seeing the Gospel of John and reviewing it.

L. June Stevenson

MISSION IN ACTION

Johnston
Romania

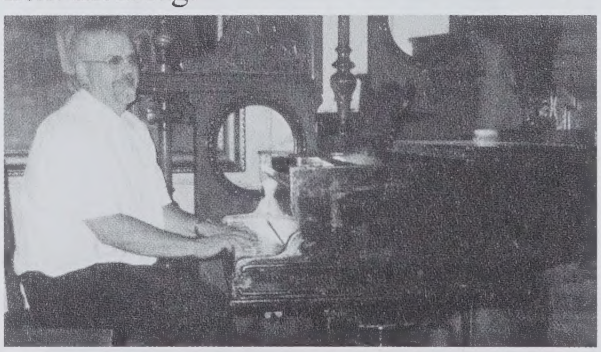
The past year **2003** has been the most eventful for me since I began my work as a lay missionary in Romania in 1993. I continue to work in the Protestant Theological Seminary in Cluj, Romania as a teacher of English and as a musician. There are still many students at various levels wishing to study English and there are a sufficient number of students joining the Theological Male Choir to replace those graduating.

In early March my choir was invited to appear in Kecskemet, Hungary the same location where I had studied music in the Kodaly Institute (1982-4). This was quite an ambitious weekend as we made seven appearances in all. Both the Hungarian Reformed Church in Kecskemet and the Kodaly Institute worked together very well in order to for this weekend to unfold so successfully. As well as singing for two church services we also participated in an elders' conference, sang in a teacher training college and in the music school in Kecskemet.

Just before leaving for Kecskemet we were honoured to have the Canadian ambassador from Bucharest visit us in our seminary and we offered a short program for our embassy guests. I am very pleased that we have been able to maintain such a good relationship with the Canadian embassy. We were also invited to participate in the Canada Day celebrations held in Bucharest on June 30th. President Iliescu also attended and our program consisted of selections sung in Hungarian, Romanian and English as well as the Romanian and Canadian national anthems. The students appreciated this kind sponsorship and our participation in an event of this kind was certainly a first for us.

In May a study tour program was organized by Barbara Nawratil, mission coordinator for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The participants also visited Hungary and the Ukraine and their limited time in Romania was certainly eventful; opportunities for interaction with the students were provided. On May 29th a concert was held in the sanctuary of our institute.

Both of the institute choirs participated as well as soloists and Maria Georgescu from the Hungarian Opera. In addition to working with theological students I am also privileged to collaborate with two young conservatory students, Katalin Gyorgy and Zoltan Nagy who enrich our music program considerably. The participants from the tour could attend the concert before leaving for Budapest the next morning.



Brian Johnston on piano.

One highlight of the concert was the male choir singing a difficult rendition of "Good News" which reflected the constant strengthening of the ongoing relationship between Canadian Presbyterians and the Hungarian Reformed Church here. One other item of importance which must be mentioned was the new rich sounding piano which was recently obtained thanks to individual donors and a generous gift from the Women's Missionary Society.

This was certainly a year for many visitors coming to Romania and we were again honoured when Sandy MacDonald, the newly appointed moderator, his wife Chris and Ron Wallace, newly appointed administrator of International Ministries, visited us in late September. They were able to attend a gala concert put on as part of a celebration for an International Disabled Conference taking place for the first time in Cluj.

Sonya Henderson, my colleague, was very active in its organization and my three young soloists sang in the gala. The next day our guests were welcomed to the institute and were able to have meaningful discussions with Tamas Juhasz, our rector and with many of the students. On Saturday we toured in the countryside which was quite informative due to the expertise of David Pandy being both chauffeur and guide for the day. On Sunday morning before departing for the Ukraine we attended church in Inaktelke, a village rich in tradition and customs 40 kms. from Cluj.

Attila Tokes, the assistant minister in the village, is also a very good musician. He played the piano several times during the choir's tour to Canada and can be heard on our CD which was recently released: "Have You Heard" available in The Book Room of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Overseas Staff Birthdays

AUGUST
9 - Ken Kim, Guatemala
29 - Mona Barsoum, Cyprus

SEPTEMBER
7 - David Villalonga, Nicaragua
14 - Michael Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Arlene Onuoha, Nigeria
16 - Denise van Wissen, Nicaragua
22 - Jim Patterson, El Salvador
27 - Clara Henderson, Malawi (USA)

Honorary Citizenship

Joy Randall received the honourary citizenship for Changhua County on March 11, 2004. The presentation was made by Ms. Won, the Magistrate of Changhua County "in appreciation for her long-term care and for contributions...." Joy has served in Taiwan since 1969 and plans to retire in 2004. Congratulations to Joy on this well-deserved honour.

Brian, centre, with choir.

Our guest preacher and soloist that morning was Robert Szilagyi a fifth-year student who is also performing on our CD. In a recent letter I received from the moderator he commented on the exceptional quality of students with whom I am blessed to continue working.

In the first week of November I and a section of my choir journeyed to Sovata, a small city 150 kms. from Cluj. There we participated in a benefit concert organized to assist students lacking necessary funds to continue their education. The students were proud to take part in such an event which was combined with an opening of an exbition of my photos "Impressions of Transylvania." Kati and Zoltan, my soloists also sang and our guest pianist was Attila Tokes.

On November 20th, I organized my first opera gala which was was well attended and exceptionally well received. In addition to my regular soloists Elizabeth Conrad, a well known soprano from the Hungarian opera, performed admirably and assisted the choir with her vocal expertise during the rehearsals. The male choir sang with her from Verdi's *La Forza del Destino.*

Singing with guest professionals is a real inspiration to my choirs.

Also making their debuts in our concert were two extremely gifted Romanian singers, Adriana Festeu and Tiberius Simu. Two comic duets from Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* and Rossini's *Italian Girl in Algiers* were highlights of the program. We had for the first time a large number of Romanians in the audience. One of my students wrote some meaningful words which I would like to pass on.

"I think that this event was a good chance for bettering the relationship between the majority and the largest minority in Romania. It was a beautiful example of what can be a way towards a more peaceful coexistence. During that evening's performance the artists and the audience forgot that they were Hungarians or Romanians and they listened to the language of music."

Our final excursion was to Miskolc in Hungary to celebrate the third weekend of advent. We performed a concert in the Lutheran Church on Saturday and on Sunday morning contributed through song in two services. The hospitality was wonderful and although we were totally exhausted in returning home we were better prepared to celebrate the true meaning of Advent.

This year was one of great fulfillment for me personally. I wish to thank all my Canadian supporters and particularly International Ministries, my great Canadian colleagues in Eastern Europe and my super-fantastic students who continue to inspire me in expanding my mission activities in Romania.

Brian Johnston

Patterson
El Salvador

February 2004—Greetings from El Salvador. As I was helping a local pastor work through a project application form the other day, we arrived at the point in the application where the following input was requested:

"Risk Assessment—Describe any possible risks which could reduce or prevent the success of the project."

Hmmm.... Where to start? If someone were to have asked Brenda and me to make a list of possible risks as we began our mission here four and a half years ago I doubt we would have been able to envision accurately all of the pitfalls which we have indeed encountered. Some of the biggest foreseeable disasters, e.g. earthquakes, actually produced some remarkably positive outcomes.

Other factors, such as human perversity, even though my latent Calvinism should teach me otherwise (the doctrine of 'total depravity'...) were less easily envisioned. And then there are always the persons and events that 'just happen', so to speak.

A few examples of unforeseen setbacks:

The water tank at the clinic in Chancuyo was empty yesterday. That's the second time in two weeks we have had the same problem. It shouldn't have been empty. There is always enough pressure in the evenings to fill the tank automatically for the next day's use. We checked the valves; everything was working as intended. But there was no water. So we took all

New houses for families.

the pipes apart. We found a dead frog stuck in the exit pipe. "A *Frogggg!*" Ever since one of the visiting Canadians, a water tech, had the water tested and found it to be quite safe, I have felt secure using the water to make coffee, wash my hands, etc. "*Yuckkk*!" Suddenly I don't feel well.

I got in the car last evening in Ahuachapán around 5:15. As I went to turn onto the highway toward Santa Ana, I noticed that my turn signal did not work, neither did the gas gauge, the heat gauge, or the headlights. And all the mechanics close at 5, and so do the parts stores. Everything was working fine earlier in the day. It must have been a short caused by bumping over all those back roads that the Mayor hasn't gotten around to fixing yet. I made it home just as the sun set, using all the old hand signals I learned in the days before many cars had flashers. My earnest hope was that all the other drivers had learned the same signals as I did.

One of our scholarship students ran away from home last week. She went off to live with a kid who is reputed to be a member of the much feared and hated gangs. She quit school. At 15, she is off on a life of child-bearing, poverty, perhaps

even violence. But she is so bright. And no-one imagined it would end up like this. And we all feel very badly.

In theological terms, an unforeseen outcome or setback or even disaster is not always 100% bad.

Take, for example the case of Mary, the daughter of Ana and Joachim. At a tender age, and before she was legally married, she was "found to be with child." Her fiancé had half a mind to break off their engagement. It all worked out in the end, however. She gave birth to The Messiah.

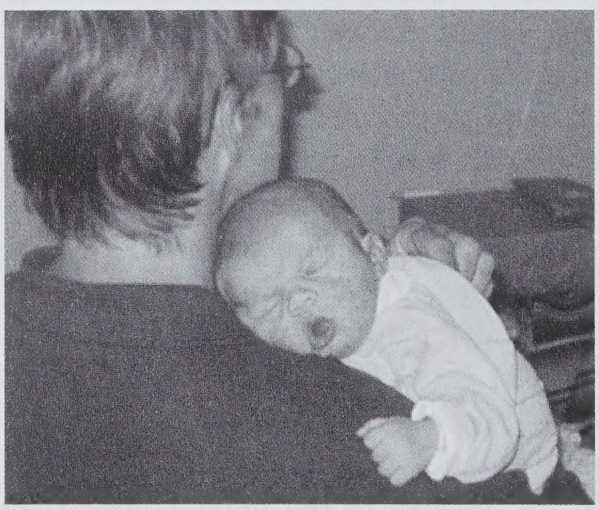
Simon, a working man, was not a person with proven leadership skills. In spite of that he was taken on as a potential "mover and shaker" for a new religious movement. After three years of in depth apprenticeship, during which he proved himself to be a somewhat slow study, he ended up avowing publicly that he had never even met the man who had been his teacher day and night for three years. Still and all, at the end of the day, he had become a tested and true leader, a foundation stone for the Church in Rome.

Yeshua ben Yosef, a bright young Rabbi, set about to establish God's rule on earth. His compassionate touch, his insightful grace, and his colourful stories all boded well for the project. But gradually things began to go wrong. First, he made some nasty enemies of the power elite. Then, one of his trusted friends was bribed to deliver him to the authorities. Finally, everyone he had befriended fled, and he was left to suffer torture and ignominious death all by himself. In his dying hours, he even accused God of abandoning him. But arguably, were it not for his death, and the deaths of countless other martyrs, we would not be able to have sufficient faith to see past the risks and the setbacks and find amid the trail of disaster the tell-tale prints of the God who works through history, more often than not through the failures rather than through the well planned successes.

That is not to say that failure is a desirable goal. And if we know it is coming, we should probably do everything possible to avoid it. And it is good to make everything as fail-safe as we possibly can. But since we are not nearly omniscient enough (i.e. frogs in the drinking water), and since there are so many variables and unknowns (i.e. the young lady who ran away from home), sometimes we have to do the best we can to make sure that some good can come from the way things turn out. That gives God a space for surprising us, and also keeps us humble, and on our toes.

On a personal note, Mary and Dino Furlan presented us with grandchild #4 earlier this month. Brenda, pictured below with baby, arrived in time to welcome them home from hospital. Alison weighed in at 9 lbs 10 oz. Mom and daughter doing fine. Gramma and Poppa are elated.

Love, Jim



Dear June:
Here is a letter in response to Zander Dunn's letter (January/February issue [p 28-29]). Dunn writes that not all New Testament scholars regard John 14:6, "No one comes to the Father except through me" as actually being Jesus' words. True! But he fails to note that many scholars, whether or not they regard them as Jesus' actual words, still find them consonant with similar words in the Gospels, e.g. Mt 11:27; in Acts, e.g. 4:12; in Paul's letters, e.g. Col. 1:19 20 and in the rest of the New Testament, e.g. Heb 1:1 4 and Rev. 1:8 & 21:6.

Yet what is decisive is not what New Testament scholars say individually but what the Christian tradition has understood as the Bible's unitary witness. As Augustine said, "In the church, it is not significant that I say this, you say this, he says this, but rather 'This says the Lord.'" Moreover, the church has summarized this unitary teaching in its rule of faith (e.g. Apostles' and Nicene Creeds).

Prime Minister Paul Martin has spoken of a "democratic deficit" in our Canadian government, and we might now add, because of the Sponsorship Scandal, a deficit in government coffers. Similarly, we can speak of a "Christological deficit" in some of our ministers, elders and people. That's a great pity! Certainly, we all suffer from some deficit which probably explains why Presbyterians tend to pray, "forgive us our debts" rather than "forgive us our trespasses." We all need to be forgiven our deficits.

Yet a "Christological deficit" is a serious matter. Actually, Dr. Dunn seems to believe more than he professes. He speaks of Jesus as "our Lord." It is a significant Christological title that associates Jesus uniquely with God who is the Lord.

Our ordination vows bind us to this teaching. Of course, if one is truly uncomfortable with what our church holds and teaches, one has option to transfer to a denomination that does not care or else prides itself in its "Christological deficit." The Presbyterian Church in Canada would not continue to exist very long with such a deficit.

Dr. Dunn should remember that what causes offense is a two-way street. When I have travelled in Hindu lands I have been offended by their many gods as the Apostle Paul was offended by Athen's numerous deities. Faith, we must always remember, is God's gift. So we confess humbly and pray, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mk 9: 24).

Sincerely,

Bill Klempa, Lachute, QC

Dear Editor:
I am writing in response to a letter in the January/February 2004 Glad Tidings, from Zander Dunn. If we are to believe that Jesus, a good Jew, would not say any of the "I am" sayings then perhaps I would ask, what are we to believe about the statement in John 4:26 when Jesus told the woman at the well, "I am the Messiah," or the statement in John 5:8 "Stand up, pick up your sleeping mat, and walk," to the lame man? Would a good Jew make these statements? I believe

Jesus is the Son of God, not just a good Jew.

In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you have the light that leads to life." In vss 14-17 of John 8, Jesus said, "These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don't know this about me. You judge me with all your human limitations, but I am not judging anyone. And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. I have with me the Father who sent me." With all due respect, I wonder if these scholars referred to in the letter could be stumbling around in the darkness with their human limitations.

We need to get back to believing in what the Bible tells us. It is the only truth that we can live by.

Yours truly,

Lynda Fitch, Wroxeter, ON

Best Wishes to All:

Thank you for a top notch magazine. The article on wills in the Jan/Feb 04 issue was most informative. Another pamphlet is very helpful, 'Preparing for the Loss of a Loved One' (Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral Chapel carries the pamphlet 613-233-1143). It gives much help in preparing beforehand and I had the information, also wills and power of attorney, ready when my husband died. Thorpe Bros. Funeral Home, here in Brantford, leaned over backward with all their help at the most difficult time. Thank you.

Eleanor Ellis, Brantford, ON

Editor's Note: Indeed, most funeral homes are a good source of helpful information.

NEWS

Palestine eNews had an exclusive interview with Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi, Secretary General of the Palestinian National Initiative

(**Hope, Out of Ramallah: The Rise of the Palestinian Alternative** 3 March 2004 by Samah Sabawi)

"Why must I come all the way from Ramallah to tell you not to give up, to give you hope?" Dr. Barghouthi replied to a despairing Palestinian Canadian, in a presentation at Carleton University in Ottawa this week.

The Palestinian Canadian community found their hopes reignited, their resolve strengthened as Secretary General of the Palestinian National Initiative (PNI), Dr. Barghouthi, took his vision for a democratic free Palestine on a Canada wide tour, before carrying his message to the United States the next week.

The Palestine National Initiative is a democratic Palestinian opposition movement that calls for a just and durable peace. It distinguishes itself from the current Palestinian Authority on key issues that touch the lives of Palestinians, not just in the Occupied Territories, but around the world.

The PNI believes in the importance of including all Palestinians around the globe in the decision making process. This will give the Palestinians in the Diaspora a larger role to play, and it will be of great significance specifically to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, who thus far have been left out of the decision making process. The Palestinian National Initiative, which was launched in 2002, has

emerged as a breath of fresh air in a stagnant pool of Palestinian political decay.

From the interview:

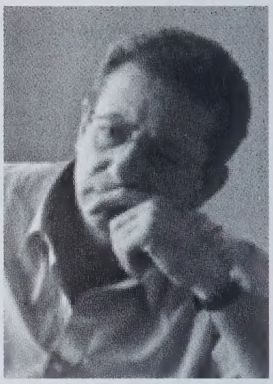
"We are beyond the possibility of negotiating," Dr. Barghouthi, how would you describe the current situation in Palestine?

I would say it's a very, very dangerous situation. There is an element of urgency. We're witnessing Israel practically destroying the last hope of building a Palestinian independent state. It is destroying the two state solution, and it's doing so while the world is watching. We have a situation where Israel is allowed to be above international law. Of course the Palestinians are not planning to give up, and they will not give up.

There is a great amount of resilience and steadfastness and that's why you see the rise of popular mass struggle against the wall. At the same time, the daily life is terrible. On average we have now about 72% of Palestinians living below the line of poverty, with $2 per capita. Around 60% of the labor force is unemployed. The wall has become a major obstacle to education and to health services. Israel has put 734 checkpoints across the Occupied Territories. I'm talking about imprisonment of a nation. A whole nation is being imprisoned behind bars.

The Israeli army, upon orders from the government, can now go into a Palestinian bank and rob it. Do you still view the current Israeli government as capable of negotiating for a just peace? And if they are not, then what is the alternative?

We don't negotiate. We are beyond the possibility of negotiating with such a government. And it would be just an illusion to think it can be done. Israel has become the second South Africa, and what we see in the OT is a combination of occupation and apartheid. The policy of Apartheid must be isolated, must be boycotted, and must be sanctioned.



Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi

But isn't that something for the International community to do?

And for us too. For all the Arabs, in particular the Arab governments who still have the illusion that they can make peace with someone like Sharon. I believe that peace can be made but not with a government of such a policy.

...the only road to peace is to tell Israel and the world that this policy of oppression is not going to break the Palestinian people.

So you think it was inevitable that Sharon would have built the wall?

Absolutely. Of course. Sharon came to power with one plan, which was to destroy the potential for the Palestinian state, and this is what he's doing on the ground.

What is the Palestinian National Initiative's (PNI) position in regards to suicide bombings?

We promote and advocate mass popular non violent struggle. We believe that at this very important point in time, it is crucial for Palestinians to engage in such a struggle, which could be part of an important strategy of Palestinian resistance combined with

working with the International community. At the same time we say that Palestinians must remain unified, and that's why we call for a Unified national leadership which would be able to decide in a collective way the political strategy and the struggle strategy that would serve the interests of the Palestinian people. We have to be very clear here about one specific point, which is, we do not accept the approach where factional politics should prevail above national common interest. I'll give you an example, when Palestinians were about to initiate the ICJ hearing on the wall, the attack in Jerusalem definitely didn't serve the interest of the Palestinians. So while we say that Palestinians have the right to resist occupation, it is very important for Palestinians to rationalize their resistance in a way to make it most productive and to maintain the Palestinian struggle and the moral integrity of the Palestinians as people who are struggling for freedom and dependence.

Canada was one of the countries that objected to having the ICJ rule on Israel's apartheid wall; did their position surprise you?

Yes. Canada has supported human rights in many places. Canada has distinguished itself by being independent with nations like Cuba...and I don't think Canada made the right choice by boycotting the court or by demanding that the court would not make a stand on a very clear and obvious case of violation of Human Rights.

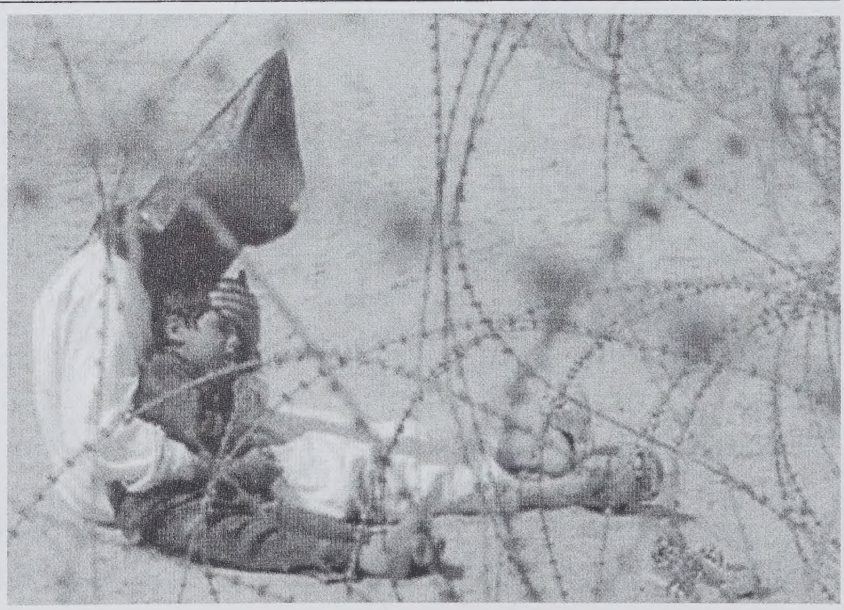
This hearing...was a turning point in the Palestinian struggle, a point that will probably be reported in history. I attended the court and the proceedings were clear. There is no way Israel could defend the wall, and what its doing in the territories is a blunt and clear violation of every aspect of Human Rights and humanitarian law. Israel escaped the court because it could not defend the case. When it decided to stay outside the court, it decided to be outside international legitimacy.

Canada should have actually supported the hearing and should have also presented a case where it should have supported the removal of the wall. Those who refuse to have the court look into the matter were actually the ones that tried to politicize international law.

World Press Photo of the Year 2003:

The prisoner, an Iraqi man at a regroupment centre for POWs, Najaf, his head covered by a bag, holds his crying son, pulling him against his body.

Jean-Marc Bouju, France, The Associated Press.



In the Society

Presbyterial

When Christ Calls was the theme of the Annual Meeting of **Brockville** Presbyterial held recently at First Church, Brockville, Ontario. President Margaret Reynolds conducted the meeting with members of local groups participating. All enjoyed a time of worship, Bible study, singing, learning, and of course, good fellowship as a delicious meal, prepared by the Brockville group, was shared.

In the afternoon Catherine Blatch moderated a panel of three clergy as they related how they had felt called into ministry, how they had sometimes resisted this call and how they have felt blessed by their obedience to His call. The panelists in turn explained about the ministry that God has currently called them to.

Rev. Marion Johnston, a retired Presbyterian minister, is currently the Visitation Minister for St. John's United Church in Brockville. She has a social work background and it was not until her son was a teenager that she felt called to study for the ministry. Her own minister at that time encouraged her studies and after some setbacks, and resistance on her part, Marion became a Presbyterian minister.

Kevin Smith is currently a volunteer Police Chaplain in Brockville, a director of Youth Unlimited, a group for at-risk children and youth in downtown Brockville, director of Spiritual Discipleship at Grenville Christian College, and at the same location, Teaching Pastor for the Community of the Good Shepherd. When he was in grade nine, he felt a clear call to ministry and after high school, attended Bible College.

Bill Heasley was instrumental in starting Loaves and Fishes, a restaurant in Brockville, run mainly by volunteers, that provides inexpensive meals for low income families. After a lot of prayers and hard work, the restaurant was opened. It is currently open for two hours, three days a week, and regularly serves from 40-85 meals each day. The cost of a meal is $1.00 but no one is turned away. Bill felt called to be a Deacon and after studying for five years, was ordained at the age of 64. He presently works out of St. John Bosco parish in Brockville.

All three panelists felt that they had been greatly blessed by God, emphasizing that everyone is called to minister in some way and it is never too late to answer God's call.

The officers for the upcoming year were installed by Marion Johnston. Incoming president, Catherine Blatch closed the meeting with prayer.

Glengarry Presbyterial annual meeting was held January 23 at St. Andrew's, Maxville, Ontario. President Corrie Bourgon presided. There were 30 members in attendance and one guest, Christine Ball. The theme was *Finding God's Opportunities.*

Corrie opened with prayer followed by members repeating the WMS purpose. Christine Ball led worship with participation by members of the Maxville WMS.

Richard Cleaver brought greetings on behalf of Seaway-Glengarry Presbytery.

It was noted that although membership is smaller, all WMS groups are active and Presbyterial meetings are well attended. A certificate was presented to members of St. Andrew's, Martintown in recognition of 121 years of mission service. The Martintown group disbanded in June 2003.

Youth and Childrens' groups are also active in all the churches within the presbyterial and many WMS members are involved with these groups. Vacation Bible Schools sponsored by the churches in various areas were well attended.

Christine Ball installed the officers for 2004-2005. The meeting was adjourned in prayer by new president Joyce Bender. Barbara Ewing gave the courtesies.

The 90th annual meeting of **Calgary Macleod** Presbyterial was held February 21-22 at St. Andrew's, Calgary, Alberta.

Rev. Marion Barclay conducted the communion service on Friday night based on the theme, *We are One in the Spirit.*

Saturday morning president Marg Befus welcomed everyone. The opening worship was done by vice-president Dawn Flint.

The afternoon session commenced with a very meaningful service of remembrance by Joan Cruickshank. Guest speaker was Dr. Ian Gray who showed slides and spoke about his recent rip to the Bhil field. The women all enjoyed a time of reflection on the past, and rejoiced in the present.

Pictured below are past and present presidents of Calgary Macleod. Left to right: Marg Befus, Joan Cruickshank, Lisbeth Duncan, Heather Swaney, Joannie Watson and Priscilla Towers.

West Toronto Presbyterial celebrated its 90th annual meeting on February 14, 2004 at St. Andrew's, Islington. Many special guests attended including Joanne Instance, President of Council Executive, Rev. Sarah Kim, Executive Director, WMS; Rev. Elias Morales, moderator of West Toronto Presbytery, and Lorna Teare, President of East Toronto Presbyterial. They all brought greetings and congratulations. Also present was Dorothy Kuhn from Bermuda. President Eleanor Dean chaired the meeting and the devotions were given by Albion Gardens women.

Short histories of each group were given as well as a list of the Presbyterial Presidents from 1950. An Honorary Membership was presented to Hazel Hutchinson from last year's recipient Diane Osborne. Lorna Teare installed the officers for 2004.

Guest speaker Rev. Rosemary Doran was introduced by Elizabeth Heath after lunch. She gave an inspiring talk on "Faith", sharing many personal experiences. Rosemary commented that faith is the passing on of the "song" from one generation to the next; the song being the song of faith.

Five faithful members were presented with a special pin honouring their long-time service to West Toronto Presbyterial: Pictured above left to right: Joan Best, Irene Cameron, Dorothy Clark, Elizabeth Heath and Mary MacLennan. The meeting was closed with an informal communion service led by Rosemary.

Area Staff President of APCE

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, area educational consultant for the Synod/Synodical of South Western Ontario has been installed as President elect of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. This took place at their annual event held late January/early February in Norfolk, Virginia. We hope our readers will support Anne with their prayers as she takes on this new challenge.

Brother, sister, let me serve you was the theme of the **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial annual meeting held in St. Andrew's, Stratford, Ontario. Shirley Aitcheson presided and Bernice Richards welcomed everyone. Lois Horne, North Easthope, had a good book display.

The morning speaker was Margaret McGillivray, Goderich. As vice-president of council executive she visited Malawi last summer. The Women's Guilds there have 60,000 members. Margaret was thanked by Barbara Tubb, St. Marys.

Ina McMillan, Atwood WMS, presided for the secretaries' reports. The roll call was answered by giving the name of someone who inspired each to serve.

Following lunch Shirley Aitcheson, Stratford, and Eunice Bisset, Goderich, led in a hymn sing. Laurine McIntosh and Helen Nethercott, Motherwell-Avonbank, gave devotions. Verna Strathdee led the "In Memoriam," and Barbara McKay lit a candle in remembrance of members who had died during 2003.

Elizabeth Steward introduced the afternoon speaker, Rev. Teresa McDonald-Lee,

who had visited Ghana last summer. Schools and hospitals are all linked with the churches and one of the reasons for Teresa's trip was to visit Presbyterian World Service & Development projects.

The new president, Ina McMillan, presided for the remainder of the meeting. Jean Edmunds, Mitchell installed the officers for 2004.

I will pour out my Spirit was the theme for the annual meeting of **Maitland** Presbyterial held January 19 at St. Andrew's, Wingham, Ontario. President Marilyn MacIntyre welcomed everyone and opened with prayer. Shirley McCull and Valerie Sharp led in worship.

The roll was answered by 37 members. Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs introduced the study "Making Connections: the Bhil People of India." Annual reports were adopted as read.

The officers for 2004 were installed by Anne Yee-Hibbs. The meeting was closed with a soup and sandwich lunch.

On January 15, the 90th annual meeting of **London** Presbyterial was held at North Caradoc St. Andrew's Church. Despite cold termperatures and lots of snow attendance was excellent.

President Mildred Greig rearranged the program to accommodate late arrivals due to the weather.

Speaker Wilma Welsh warmed the church sanctuary with her information and enthusiastic talk on her time overseas, especially the time spent in the Bhil field in India. Wilma had photographs of projects, including photos of babies wearing knitted vests and wrapped in knitted crib blankets.

The remaining time was spent with a hymn sing and special music provided by Rev. Kathy Fraser of North Caradoc. Mary Sutherland accompanied her on the piano.

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs led bible study and women from New St. James Church did worship and "In Memoriam."

East Toronto Presbyterial Christmas meeting was held in Calvin Church, Toronto on December 3, 2003. Calvin's president Jean Mullin welcomed us and Lorna Teare, president of the presbyterial introduced guest speakers Rev. Joyce Davis and Rev. Priscilla Anderson.

Margaret Near and Peggy Liptrott of Calvin gave the devotions. Peggy based her meditation on Luke 1:26-38, and gave a very thoughtful look at what kind of Mary the angel Gabriel might find if he came in 2003.

Joyce and Priscilla gave an lively and interesting overview of their recent visit back to Japan for the 75th anniversary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

An excellent book table was staffed by Eva Powrie. Everyone enjoyed brown bag lunches augmented with Christmas goodies provided by Calvin women and served at tables decorated for Christmas.

The 89th annual meeting of **East Toronto** Presbyterial was held on February 21 at Knox, Oshawa. Thirty-nine members and guests attended. The meeting began with a spirited hymn sing led by Joan Neilson with Anna Cook, pianist. Outgoing president Lorna Teare welcomed everyone. Worship was led by Jean Dancey of Knox Church.

Following a brief business meeting, incoming president Doris McAndless introduced guest speaker Betty Turcott,

president of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada and an active member of the United Church Women. She is the author of three excellent devotional guides and a song book "Songs for the Journey." Betty spoke about the many women of faith whose stories are recorded in the Bible and how we can relate to them as we face the challenges of our changing world. There followed a time of prayer for Christians in India, the Middle East, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Canada.

Rev. Ed Musson, minister of Knox, installed the officers for 2004-05 and then led in the closing worship. A lunch followed and an opportunity to purchase books supplied by The Book Room.

Local

Dora (Edwards) Neilson passed away February 12, 2003 at her home in Turnberry Estates, Wingham, Ontario. She was the beloved wife of Rev. John A. Neilson, and dear mother of Barry and Rosemary Neilson, Scarborough; Susan and Michael Shook, Prince Rupert, BC; and Jamie and Connie Neilson, Fraser Lake, BC. Also surviving are four grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A service of thanksgiving was conducted by Rev. John Vaudry and Carol Jessop in Wingham February 17, 2003.

Dora was born in England's fabled Sherwood Forest and baptized in the same church that Robin Hood and Maid Marian were said to have been married in. Dora trained as a midwife and worked in Nottingham.

Dora was a war bride, meeting a young Canadian named John Neilson at Stoke-on-Trent, and being married in 1943. They made their home in Listowel from 1946-1952 and Dora worked at the hospital while John served in Korea.

Next they spent five years at a base in Manitoba, then three years in Europe. Dora was active in the life and work of the Protestant chapel on the base, organizing a Christmas service for some 500 orphans in her first year.

The Neilsons returned to Manitoba for another five years. John then answered the call to ministry and went off to Knox College in Toronto. Dora supported John in his ministry for 16 years in Ontario and as Superintendent of Missions for the synod of Saskatchewan, throwing herself into church and WMS activities.

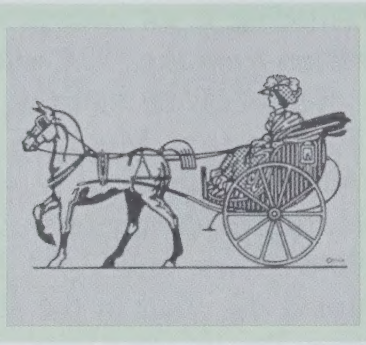
In 1987 they retired to Wingham, continuing to lead an active life in the church. Dora had many interests including crafts and elocution, reciting poetry. Dora is sadly missed by her family, her community and her church families. (From the eulogy given by Rev. John Vaudry)

Mrs. **Laura Elliott** of **Vernon, BC** was presented with a "Certificate of Achievement" in 2003. Laura gave many years of her time and talents to WMS in Knox, Vernon which is now known as the "Vera McCullock WMS."

Pictured below left to right: Ruby Love, Laura Elliott and Mary Sebastion.

Once Upon a Time...

The WMS has a proud and interesting history. If you have an old report, story, anecdote or photo that others might enjoy please send it in. Label photos clearly on the back and send a SSAE (for anything you want returned).



A few years ago someone attended an estate auction in Buttonville, Ontario at the home and property of Drew Boyington (nee Kelly). She was over 100 years old and had lived in the house most of her life. Drew became a very knowledgeable historian of the Markham area.

Among the purchases was a box of laces, crochet cottons and thread. Tucked in the bottom of a chocolate box of old spools of thread the woman found a record of an annual 1928 WMS meeting, written by Drew.

This woman said, "I can just picture these ladies in their straight, above the ankle dresses and their cloche hats, sitting around being very prim and proper. I wonder who was looking after their children?"

Summer camp 1950 at Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

Agnes Conkey, deaconess, who sent the photo in reports she arrived on July 24, 1950 from Rocky Mountain, Alberta and settled in. The next day 56 girls had arrived. Agnes' cabin was 'Killarney' and her camp name was 'Cloudy.' Agnes, pictured second row, five from the right with striped blouse, wonders when the name of the camp was changed to Camp Kannawin?

Following is an excerpt reproduced as written from the 1928 minutes:

Report of the morning session of the 13th Annual Meeting of Section 4 Toronto Presbyterial W.M.S. which was held in the Presbyterian Church Sutton West, Thurs. June 7/28. Mrs Miller occupied the chair in the absence of Mrs. Hiltz. The meeting opened with singing hymns 371 [O Spirit of the living God, 1918 Book of Praise] & 448 [Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts]. The bible reading 1st Cor. 3rd chapter 1-13 was read by one of the members of Newmarket Aux. She also gave a paper on Verse 9. For we are labored together with God, ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. Prayer by Mrs. Miller.

The words of welcome were given by Mr. Campbell, pastor of Sutton church. He said this meeting was a new undertaking for the women of Sutton, but they hoped that all would enjoy themselves and feel that they were real welcome. The church of Sutton in which we were entertained is not a year old yet. This time last year they hadn't any money, not even a leaf out of a hymn book or bible & now they have a lovely new church, almost clear of debt only $3,500 to be paid. The money was not made by making bazaars, tea parties or little pink teas. It was just freely given. The minutes came next, the secretary Mrs. Decker was reappointed. Hymn 553 [Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult] was sung, after this Mrs. Williams gave the address in the absence of Mrs. Hiltz who met with a motor accident on her way to Sutton.

To be continued!...

Thanks to Esther Powell for submitting the original report.

CIRCULATION NEWS

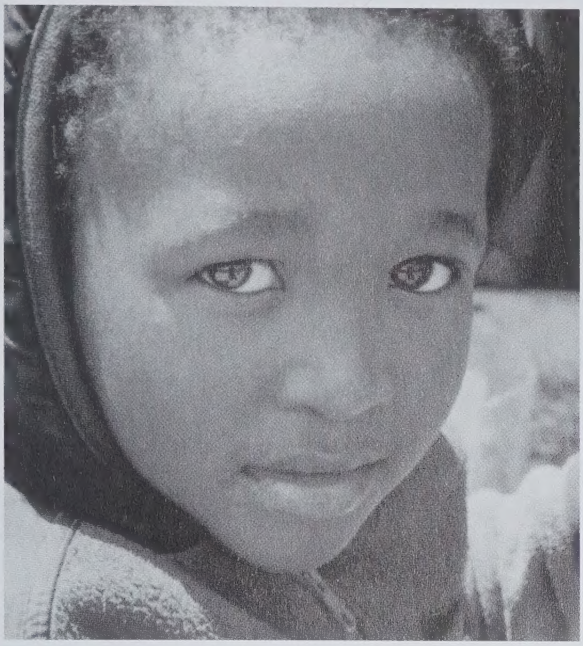
Katherine Allen

When looking at the statistics for the WMS over the years, it is interesting to note the comparison between the number of subscribers to the magazine and the number of members of the groups. For 2003, there were approximately 5,000 subscribers to the magazine and approximately 6,153 members of WMS and associate groups (363 WMS groups).

There are also more congregations that subscribe to the magazine than there are actually local groups. In some cases groups that have disbanded or have other types of women's groups, continue to have a list of subscribers and a contact person who collects subscriptions each fall. This tells us that these women and some men continue to keep up with the mission work of the church through the Glad Tidings magazine.

When your group receives the 2003 Annual Report Book in August, please take the opportunity to read the Glad Tidings report from the editor and the other reports from the staff.

If your group has chosen a new contact person for the Glad Tidings, please forward this information to us by the end of June. We want to ensure that the summer mailing is mailed to the proper source.



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IN REMEMBRANCE

Margaret Crawford
Knox, Belmont, ON

Mrs. Margaret Hill
Elmvale, ON

Mrs. Faye Valliant
St. Andrew's, Forester's Falls, ON

Isabel Winnifred McCredie
Chippawa, Niagara Falls, ON

Mrs. Marjorie Wraith
Knox, Oshawa, ON

Mrs. Doris Bebee
Mrs. Nellie Hood
St. Paul's, Peterborough, ON

Betty Houston
Russell, ON
(formerly of Jubilee, Stayner & Zion, Sunnidale, ON)

Louise Hamilton
Westminster, Smiths Falls, ON

Nancy Gonsalves
Jubilee, Stayner, ON

Barbara Hallett
Ruth Wiley
Rockway, St. Catharines, ON

Peggy Conlin
Florence Rhodes
St. James, Stouffville, ON

Hazel McDonald
Jean McPherson
Knox, Teeswater, ON

Miss Ann Hall
Weston, Toronto, ON

Mae McPherson
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON

Mrs. Norma Rintoul
Chalmers, Whitechurch, ON

Mrs. Ferne Campbell
St. Andrew's, Wyoming, ON

Mary of Bethany

She did not
like Martha hurry
to clean their house
when she heard of their
friend Raboni's coming.
nor did she rush out
to prepare for his meal
But she ran out to meet him.
and her eyes shone
when she welcomed him,
And,
when she saw his raw and tired feet,
she at once ran to prepare to wash
and anoint them.
she ignored his companion's
grumbling at her wastefulness
of spending so much on scent
while there were multitudes
suffering dire need
And later she forgot all else
drinking in his words
while sitting at his feet.

Lini Richarda Grol

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Glad Tidings

July/August 2004

Council 2004

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Cover Photo: Taken by June Stevenson at the 89th Annual WMS Council Meeting, May 2-5, 2004

Glad Tidings

July/August 2004
Volume 81 No. 4

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Written in Love

L. June Stevenson, Editor

Thank you and farewell! This is my last issue of Glad Tidings. As I prepare to retire, officially the end of June, I have the luxury of preparing two talented young people to take over. Holly Wilson came on board May 18 and is already editing, proofreading, etc for this issue (see "staff changes" on page 23). As Holly works on the word side of the magazine, Alexis Dimson is doing the layout and design (see May/June page 26). I feel confident that I leave the magazine in competent hands.

It is never easy saying "Goodbye." At Council I had the opportunity to do the closing worship on the Sunday evening. My reflection begins on the next page as my farewell words to the WMS.

On the same evening the Council said "thank you and farewell" to me with a beautiful wall quilt (shown below), made by synodical groups across the country and signed on the back. Council Executive also presented me with a bamboo plant for "happiness." In turn my gift to the WMS in appreciation and gratitude for 24 wonderful years was a communion plate and cup. My thanks also go to Bonnie Dean and Lynne Panjer of Calgary who put the quilt blocks together.

You will likely hear from me again as I plan to do a lot of writing. My other plans include gardening and grandparenting. As the synodical presidents sang to me at Council, I say in turn to all of you, "Thanks for the memories."

89th Annual WMS Council

May 2-5, 2004 Crieff Hills Community

Justice - Not Just Us

Sunday May 2, 2004

Opening: The dining hall at Crieff Hills was abuzz with chatter on Sunday May 2 as Council delegates gathered for the opening meal, renewing acquaintances and meeting new people. Following dinner delegates met in the conference hall for a "getting acquainted" exercise led by President Joanne Instance.

Joanne then spoke on her experience in the Bhil field last year. She asked for prayers for missionary Pauline Brown who serves at a difficult time in the history of that area: Christians are being persecuted; elections are tampered with and the people are under great stress. Joanne challenged groups to respond to an appeal for $35 from each group to send children in the Bhil area to public school for one year.

Joanne then called June Stevenson forward in recognition of her upcoming retirement. June leaves the position of editor of Glad Tidings after almost 24 years. June led the closing worship in which she related her work and experience with the WMS to the theme, *Justice: Not Just Us.*

Closing Worship: ***W****omen:* ***M****others,* ***S****isters*

Meditation (June Stevenson): Behold I tell you a story: A woman was in the prime of her life. For after all, doesn't life begin at 40? Her minister preached the parable of hiding one's light under a bushel and she felt God nudging her. Hadn't she always wanted to write? Hadn't she always wanted to work for the Lord?

And so the woman answered the call to come to work in the city for an organization of ***W****omen:* ***M****others,* ***S****isters,* the WMS. She became the chief scribe and reporter for the women's magazine, the Glad Tidings.

Before long she came to respect and admire the women with whom she

worked for their courage, their tenacity, their patience and their wisdom because she was learning that even in the church, or perhaps especially in the church, women were considered second class citizens and not encouraged to speak. Sometimes in a room of mostly men, she herself felt invisible. She soon discovered that these women who had not always had a voice, were what was holding up the church and keeping it going.

She learned how the women had been in the forefront of mission, even before the men—sending nurses to the Klondike and teachers to the native people out west, and how the work of the women predated even the formation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. She heard how the women stood strong and firm when in 1925 most of the church went over to the newly formed United Church of Canada. That very month in June 1925 their new magazine, the Glad Tidings was published.

It was not long before the women nudged her, their appointed scribe and reporter, towards other issues of justice. Men, women and children were starving and dying by the thousands in Ethiopia. Go and see, they urged, and come back and tell us so that we will know how to help.

And that was just the beginning of a magic carpet ride that touched down on many corners of the world, searching out and uncovering the many faces of injustice at home and abroad: exclusive language; civil war and the bombing of food convoys; pay inequity; unfair labour practices; oppression of church structures; sexual abuse and harassment; the domination of transnational corporations; land mines; sweat shops, refugees, political prisoners; sexism, racism, terrorism and all the other isms.

But all was not doom and gloom. For the woman celebrated with native people in their ceremonies of the smudging and the sweat lodge; the woman shared in coffee ceremonies in Ethiopia and Eritrea; photographed Pope John Paul 11 in the Dominican Republic; listened to Desmond Tutu in St. Paul's Cathedral, Toronto; swam in turquoise seas in Cuba and Santo Domingo; she bought dresses and earrings in Mexico and scarves in Bethlehem, Cuba and Africa; worshipped in some of the oldest churches in the world; met with guerilla leaders and church leaders, and most of all prayed, sang and danced with women of many colours and cultures. The woman learned so much about so many things. It was a rich and rewarding experience.

And the woman came to love her mothers and sisters in the Society. They cared for her as they cared for each other. They supported her, they cheered her successes and shook their heads kindly over her failures. Her children grew in the shadow of her work. They graduated. They took on careers. They married. They gave her grandchildren. And they too were loved and cared for by the women of the Society.

And now it is time for the woman to leave the work to which she was called. To leave the shelter of the WMS; the richness of the tasks; the sanctity of women's work and women's ways.

There is our time—chronos, and there is God's time, Kairos. In God's time the hungry will be fed, the naked will be clothed and the homeless will find shelter; the poor will be raised from the dust; those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled; and to those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake will come the kingdom of heaven.

Pray: Women: mothers, sisters and daughters in Christ–Blessed are you among women for you are the light bearers of the world and you are the myrrh-bearers for Christ. Women in whose wombs the unborn leap for joy, as you bear the children of the world, so you carry its sorrows. Your shoulders are broad and your backs are strong. When children call in the night, you rise and go to them; when God calls in the darkness of oppression and suffering, you answer his voice willingly. When celebrations arise, you bake the cakes and blow up the balloons; when knees are scraped and hearts are broken, you are there to kiss and to mend. When Christ comes to call, the Marthas among you fix his meals and the Marys sit at his feet and feed themselves spiritually; others wash his feet with ointment and dry them with their tresses. When Christ dies and rises again you are there, the last and the first.

Women: mothers, sisters and daughters, you are in God, and God is in you. In you is everything you need to live, for you have met the one who knows everything you have ever been and will be.

Women: mothers, sisters and daughters, we pray for all women of the world; all who are marginalized; imprisoned; homeless; abused; cast off and alone. In each of us there is need for understanding and healing. In each of us there is knowledge of our sisters who need understanding and healing.

In the silence now we reflect on a person, an issue, something or someone that we would bring before you tonight for healing. As we reflect we will pray for ourselves and those we bring before you. As we pray we will come forward and commit all these to the flames of renewal and reconciliation. And as people come forward we will sing quietly and prayerfully: Kum ba yah, My Lord.

Monday May 3, 2004

Bible Study: Monday began with an unusual presentation by Bernice Santor, United Church woman and author of the recently published book, *Some Women Amazed Us*. Around the room was a selection of Bernice's quilts depicting women of the Bible who are referred to in her book. Groups looked at various scripture passages on Mary Magdalene and discussed how she has been depicted

as a prostitute down through the years, although nowhere in scripture is this mentioned. Bernice described how Mary was considered a leader of the early church and how this image of her was suppressed as the church developed. Mary was a woman who stepped "outside the box" of her time. We can bring justice to Mary Magdalene by "going and telling" her story today.

Resolutions: A resolution from British Columbia asking for a reinstatement of the policy of mission education for candidates for ministry from other countries and other denominations was discussed. It was decided to present the following recommendation as a supplementary to the 130th General Assembly in June:

> It is a concern of the Women's Missionary Society that the ministers of Word and Sacrament coming into The Presbyterian Church in Canada from other countries and other denominations are not required to take units of study in the mission work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
>
> We feel that these candidates will be lacking vital educational information about the mission work of our church as carried out by the Women's Missionary Society, *Presbyterians Sharing...* and Presbyterian World Service and Development.
>
> The Women's Missionary Society requests that the Life and Mission Agency (Education and Reception of Ministry and Church Vocations) investigate the possibility of providing a church-wide policy regarding the requirement of mission education for those candidates coming into The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Constitution and By-laws: Joanne reported that the Constitution and By-laws will be presented at the 130th General Assembly for approval. She thanked the committee and June Stevenson for their work.

National Council of Women of Canada: Druse Bryan, WMS representative to the NCWC briefly described this program for new delegates and asked for input on resolutions for the annual meeting, especially on the rights to marriage.

Considerable discussion followed on the rights of same sex couples in relation to whether it is appropriate to use the word marriage or civil union. It was generally felt that people had the constitutional right to marriage. It was agreed that

all reference to religion should be removed from the resolution and that Druse will suggest this to the resolutions convener.

Business: Speaking to the Program Committee report Carol Macowski indicated the importance and difficulty of getting numbers from presbyterials, especially related groups, and that we need to find ways to do this.

Finance: Treasurer Giollo Kelly referred to the fact that since two presbyterials were late getting money in for 2003, the figures for the year will not be a true representation of our finances. She stressed the importance of sending money in regularly especially at the end of the year (by December 31).

In further discussion of finances it was pointed out that all salaries are under mission education.

Estimates in the amount of $1,066,950 were approved for 2005.

Camp Prescawa: On behalf of the Board of Trustees Joanne Instance reported on that negations re: the sale of Camp Prescawa in Manitoba to the Presbytery of Winnipeg are still underway.

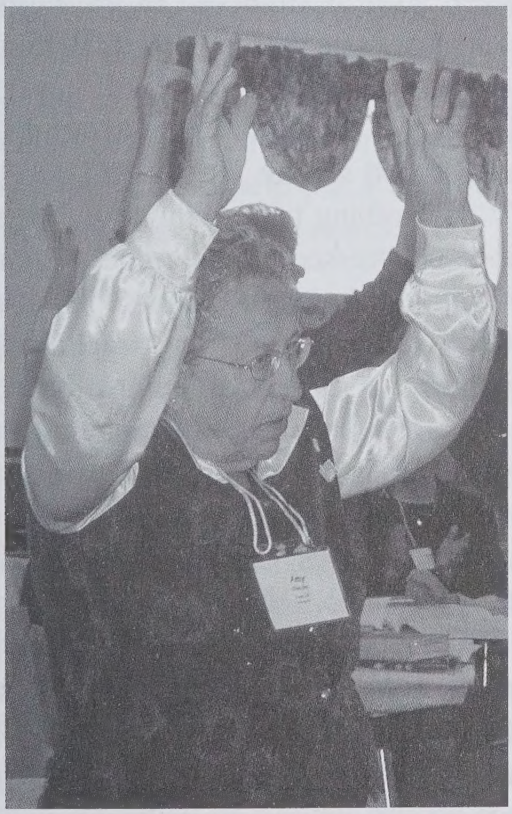
Mission Projects: In 2002 it was decided to give $50,000 each year for three years to a Canadian mission project and an International mission project: $25,000 to Cariboo, BC in 2001; $25,000 to Boarding Homes; $25,000 in 2003 shared between the St. Andrew's, Simcoe St., Prince Rupert Breakfast Program and the Toronto Out-of-the-Cold Program. From 2001-2003 $25,000 to Chigodi House, Malawi.

In 2004 the breakdown is as follows: Canadian—$10,000 to Evangel Hall; $15,000 to Action Refugies Montreal; International: $10,000 to Chigodi House, Malawi, $15,000 to the School, Jobat, India.

Mission Presentations: Heather Paton, who worked for a year at Chigodi House, Malawi, gave a presentation on her work. She began with a Chichewa chorus translated by Clara Henderson. Heather helped to plan and implement a program for women and children in AIDS awareness. Workshops focusing on AIDS and on gender were taken to people in the presbytery. Women worked on self-esteem

and assertiveness. In Malawi men are still considered the head of the household. Heather stressed the importance of women being able to talk together about sexual issues. Heather thanked the WMS for their support of this important work. Marg McGillivray who visited Chigodi for the WMS and saw the program in action thanked Heather.

Knitted Items: Delegates were reminded that at last year's Council meeting it was reported that International Ministries would no longer be responsible for the mailing of knitted items. The WMS agreed that items would be mailed from synodicals. Synodicals were to decide how they would handle this in their areas and that they would report to the council executive twice a year. $15,000 from undesignated legacies was set aside for assistance in covering the shipping costs.



Expenses: There was discussion on travel expenses of delegates to synodical meetings and regional staff meetings. It was determined that expenses will be paid both ways for travel but people have the option to return money as a donation if desired.

Justice Presentation: Council was fortunate to have as guest speaker on the Monday evening Rev. Glynis Williams. Glynis, who is also a registered nurse, has been involved with the Anglican Church in a joint ministry, Action Réfugié, with refugees in Montreal for many years. She spoke of the many difficulties encountered and how hard it is for some refugees to be granted status. There are 25 million refugees worldwide, and some 100 million displaced persons. Seventy-five percent of refugees are women and children. Glynis described her visits to refugees in detention and their helplessness in not speaking the language and not knowing why they are being detained. Some of her stories were heartbreaking and disturbing. Action Réfugié also advocates with the federal government in reference to refugee laws.

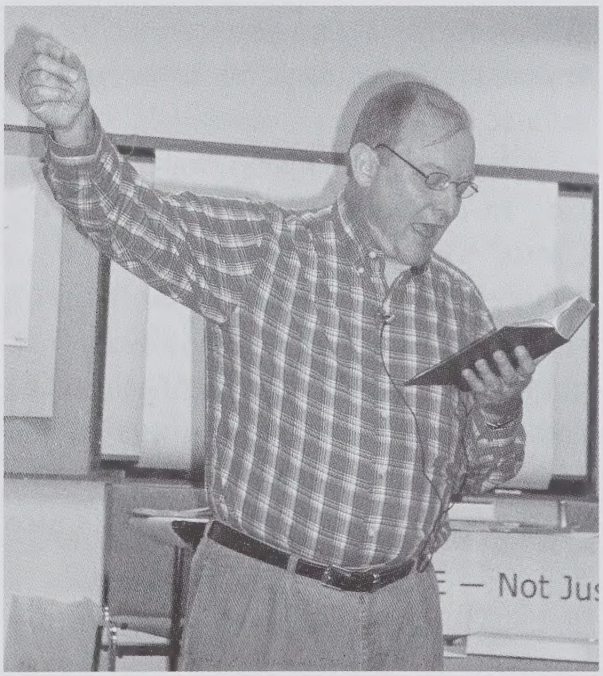
Glynis led the closing worship. Referring to the film, "The Passion of the Christ," Glynis described the suffering of refugees who know the kind of pain inflicted on Christ. She spoke of how people are still being crucified on the cross on account of the injustices in their country but reminded us that Christ walks with each of us. She reminded us also that Jesus was a child refugee.

The Book Room: Susan reported that thanks to Alexis Dimson The Book Room is now on line. Steven Orticello, assistant to The Book Room manager, was introduced.

Tuesday May 4, 2004

Bible Study: Joe Reed, special guest for the entire Council meeting led the morning worship and Bible study. The study focused on John 4:3-15, 27-28, the story of the woman at the well. Joe said the story might have been entitled, "Jesus at the Laundromat." Jesus knew the woman would come to the well because only women drew water. He chose to be among people who were different. "When you love someone who is different," Joe said, "two lives are changed."

Morning Watch: The morning watch which people did individually or in small groups was prepared this year by Frances Quarrington of the Ontario CGIT Association.



Mission Presentation: Present with us for lunch were Helen Smith, Evangel Hall and her two guests, Barbara and Brent. The three of them joined us, along with John Plater for the afternoon session facilitated by Joe Reed. Each had a personal story to tell about a justice issue.

John was born with hemophilia and at the age of 16 contracted HIV through a blood transfusion. Today, a successful lawyer, John is involved in the human rights of persons with HIV and AIDS and in advocacy for those involved in a lawsuit against the Red Cross around the tainted blood supply. He pointed out that HIV has nothing to do with sexual orientation and stressed that marginalization is about ignoring people. John spoke about how the problem in Africa is getting beyond anyone's ability to control but that people are still not acknowledging that the problem is in our own back yards.

Brent, a recovering heroine addict, keeps himself busy with a regular routine which includes helping out at Evangel Hall. He described "tent city" where he lived in Toronto before it was bulldozed. Today he lives on his own and is suffering from leukemia which was discovered when he was coming off methadone.

Barbara suffers from a degenerative brain disease and has been living on the street for two months. This is her second time and she said jokingly that it is easier this time. She hopes to get into the assisted housing that Evangel Hall will be building in the near future. Because of her illness, Barbara was forced to give up her four children to her ex-husband whom she left because of his abusive behaviour.

In summing up the afternoon session it was pointed out that Jesus was a good example of a homeless person. Both Helen and Joe expressed their thanks for the courage of these persons for telling their stories in order to help put a face on our understanding of justice issues.

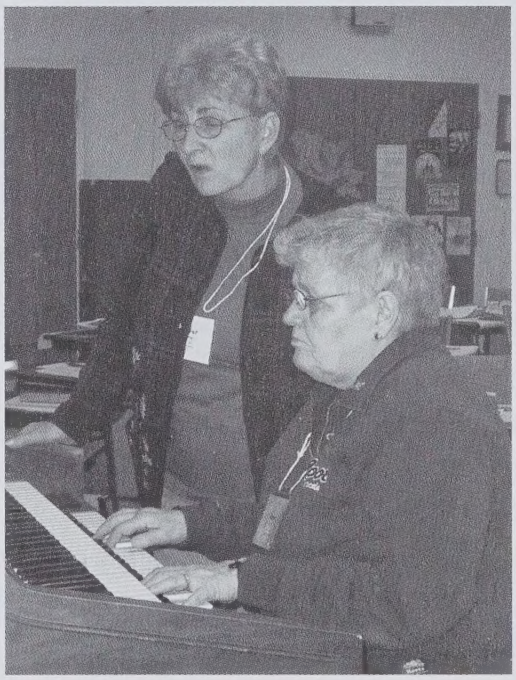
Justice Presentation: Council was joined by Marjorie Ross and Stephen Allen. Stephen introduced Marjorie who gave a presentation on KAIROS — Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (a partnership of 11 churches). Marjorie was instrumental in its organization.

Joanne presented Marjorie with a WMS Honorary Membership Certificate.

On the Tuesday evening, Stephen Allen was joined by his colleague Gail Turner. Gail presented a workshop using scripture passages from Luke 11:21-22 and Micah 3:3-4. In table groups delegates looked through newspapers to find examples of good news involving peaceful actions and bad news involving violence and injustice.

Gail has almost finished revising the old Social Justice Handbook, from 800 pages to 300 pages. It will be available soon.

Stephen closed with worship, his meditation focusing on "A Home Where All Are Welcome." To be homeless, he indicated, is to experience insecurity and not belonging.



Wednesday May 5, 2004

Bible Study: Joe Reed led the Bible study using the story of Nicodemus who came to Jesus under cover of darkness. Groups then discussed the significance of the interaction between Jesus and Nicodemus. Joe referred to the importance of meeting people where they are which was what Jesus did.

Retiring President's Remarks: Using 2 Corinthians 3:18 Joanne reflected on looking into a mirror and seeing your own face. During her presidency she has seen face to face many people of many places and has seen the spirit of God in them. She thanked everyone for the experience.

Other Business: A delegation of women from the Korean Christian Church in Japan will arrive in Vancouver on September 22. On Saturday October 2, a full day mission consultation is being planned at 50 Wynford Drive which will be followed by Council Executive meetings.

Retiring Members of Council Executive: Joanne expressed appreciation for the contribution of departing members of Council Executive by presenting each with a gift of a pine made by a women's shelter in Winnipeg: Margaret Reynolds (who will be coming back as synodical president) and Jean Edmunds.

Officers and Council Executive Members: Mark McLennan installed the officers for 2004-2005. New members are Alyth Mutart and Cathy Reid. Margaret McGillivray was installed as president.

Communion Ware: June Stevenson presented a gift of a pottery communion plate and goblet "In appreciation and gratitude to the WMS."

Closing Worship and Communion: Joe Reed and Sarah Kim led the closing worship and communion service. Joe's meditation focused on various images he has encountered through his travels and experiences in life.

Offering: The offering will go towards children in Nicaragua whose families have been displaced through drought.

A word from the new treasurer Jacquie Allen:

At our annual WMS Council meeting we consider our financial estimates for the following year. As you can see these were approved for 2005 in the amount of $1,066,950.

This amount is $111,149 more than our actual expenditures for the year 2003. Grants to the Presbyterian Church have remained the same for several years. The percentage of funds for mission education, administration and grants has varied slightly each year.

We are grateful for the continued support of our members through their donations and dedication which make it possible for God's word to be made known in Canada and across the world, and also for Christians to be trained to be better servants of our Lord.

Photos used from the Annual Council Meeting were taken by Katherine Allen, Alexis Dimson and June Stevenson.

WMS ESTIMATES FOR 2005

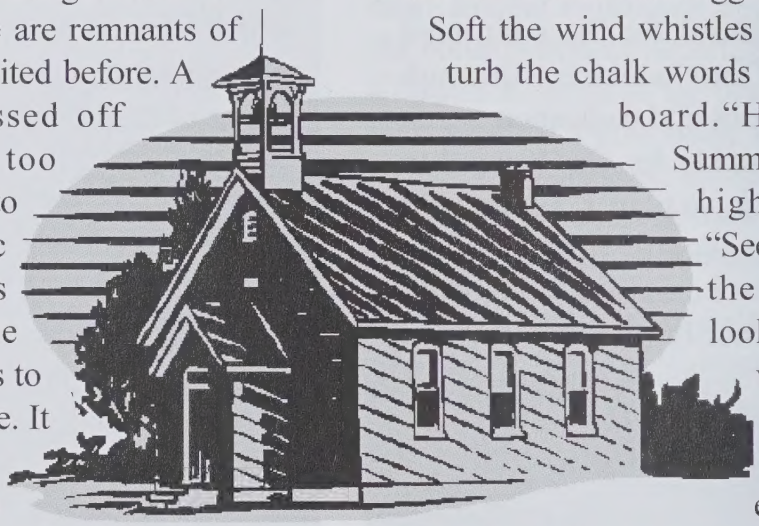
MISSION EDUCATION	
Salaries	$285,000
Benefits	38,000
Health/Dental Plan	19,700
Travel exp/deputation	10,000
Program expenses	3,000
Glad Tidings	10,000
Training events	1,000
Overseas Travel	3,000
Resources - staff	750
Subtotal	$370,450
GRANTS	
PCC General Fund	150,000
Regional Staff	390,000
Children/Youth	10,000
Outside organ. mem. fees	2,000
Christian Literature	10,000
Subtotal	$562,000
ADMINISTRATION	
President's Travel & expenses	5,000
Annual Council Meeting	35,000
Annual Reports	13,000
Executive & Com. Expenses	25,000
General contingency	5,000
Life membership/youth pins	3,000
Office equipment	8,000
Office expenses	18,000
Audit/Legal fees	10,000
Insurance/taxes/WSIB	4,500
Continuing education	3,000
Consultative travel/Reg. Staff	5,000
Subtotal	$134,500
Total Estimates	**$1,066,950**

Through the Doors of the Old Schoolhouse

by Nancy Bennett

Driving across the prairies one hot afternoon, the form of a familiar building rose softly from the hollow. Tall grass has taken over much of the playing field. Rusted swings wait in the warm wind for children to come, but all is silent. The calm before the storm, when September doors will open for children to learn again.

We stop the car and get out to explore. Here there are remnants of those who have visited before. A faded jacket, tossed off when it became too hot. Pencils, worn to stubs with scholastic euphoria. The girls and I take to the road which leads us to this old schoolhouse. It looks almost alive.



"What if ghosts live there?" the oldest asks. She is just approaching grade one and anxious. No longer will the summers be long, lasting all the way into the next. "What if ghosts DO live here?" I wonder. Ghosts of teachers waiting to drag back the students from their summer frolic? Is that the way I remember it?

When I was going into first grade my mother claims, I told her I would try it for a while and see if I liked it. "School" I thought must be a choice for children, though I couldn't imagine why anyone would want to put on uncomfortable clothing and sit inside all day, when they could be outside.

I went with my brother and sisters to the two room red school house at the edge of the village, where I learned many things and found that I even liked it sometimes! Each year I made the same decision to go back and "try it for a while" as mother had suggested .

Soft the wind whistles as not to disturb the chalk words on the blackboard."Have a Great Summer!" it says in high swirls and "See you again in the Fall!" We look through the window of the old school house and even the girls admit it is not that scary.

There are maps of far away places and desks to sit in. Around the room, the alphabet is pictured letter by letter and Amanda whispers proudly that she has already learned that and is teaching it to her younger sister.

Soon, the quiet is broken as the girls take to the playground, exploring the mounds for glass eyed marbles and swinging on the tire hung from the cypress tree. I sit looking in, both at the building and at the ghost that might wander there. My

feet swing awkwardly like a schoolgirl, not being able to touch the soft sand of the school ground. I vaguely remember Mrs. Mahoney, my first principal, a woman! She couldn't touch the ground when she sat on the bench either. She was a giant to me though. I trembled at the sight of her until I learned more about her. She was not one to be trifled with, but she tempered her judgments with kindness.

Even when I broke the school window on that cold November day and burst into apologetic tears, she steered the crowd away from me and took me inside. She told me I needed to improve my aim and the next spring, taught us all the fine art of baseball, including how girls could pitch just as well as boys. It was a secret thrill to me to be the only younger sister who could strike her brother out.

I watch the children play. Voices from the past echo on the once abandoned field. The wind carries whispers and giggles of long ago. The building looks on yearningly, as if it will never be complete again without the quickening steps of children bursting upon its faded tile floors.

A slap on my back and I awaken from my watch. "You're it!" a voice calls. I turn around and for an instant I see a tan-legged freckled face girl, a familiar figure in a cotton dress staring up at me. It is a reflection of myself, grinning in the shape of my youngest daughter. She runs ahead, urging me to follow. The eldest sits on the tire swing, her legs hanging as she looks contemplatively at the schoolhouse. We sit amongst the daisies and weave them into crowns.

"Did you really used to go there when you were little? Did you really strike Uncle Ken out just like you did at the family picnic last year? Did you really enjoy going to school? Do I really have to go?" Questions bubble out from the two girls, questions that show a willingness to learn, minds eager to grow and experience all the richness the future holds. I remember the words of a wise old mother, who knew you could lead horses to water, but you couldn't make them drink. That is unless you've whetted their imagination. Perhaps someone else can guide me in this endeavour.

> "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary..."

I am reminded that "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned."

I look at my old schoolhouse, waiting for the next wave of children to run along inside in answer to the bell and the face of my uncertain daughters. I realize though school is out for me, I have faith I will never quit learning.

"I tell you what," I say, "why don't you try school for a while and see what you think? Who knows, you might just like it..."

Don't You Remember?

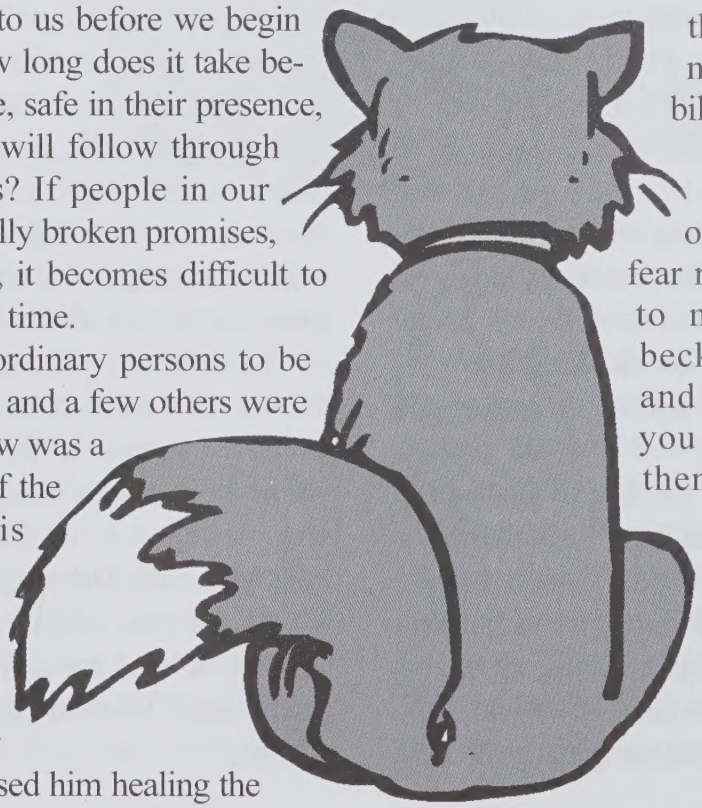
by Gail Northgrave

If we are willing to pay attention, pets can teach us a lot about trust. Rainbow, our cat has a fabulous memory. Whenever she hears me in the kitchen fixing dinner she feverishly begins polishing the cupboard doors with her paws as if to say, "Me too don't forget me." Similarly, when I'm sitting in our blue recliner chair, she views it as her personal invitation to join me. She then proceeds to stretch out on my lap and after a few purrs of contentment, falls asleep. These and other behaviours make me realize how much she trusts me and feels safe and secure in my ability to meet her needs for food and affection. Yet, we humans, for all our intelligence, have not yet mastered the art of trusting God with our everyday needs.

How many times must someone prove themselves to us before we begin to trust them? How long does it take before we feel secure, safe in their presence, trusting that they will follow through on their promises? If people in our past have continually broken promises, lied, or abused us, it becomes difficult to trust again. It takes time.

Jesus picked ordinary persons to be his disciples. Peter and a few others were fishermen; Matthew was a tax collector but of the others, little is known. Clearly, they must have had trust problems. They had followed Jesus for three years, witnessed him healing the sick, feeding the multitudes and casting out demons. Yet, they promptly forgot and needed more reassurance. When Jesus mentioned the "yeast" of the Pharisees they presumed he was upset because they hadn't brought bread for the journey. To make them aware of their lack of trust Jesus asked, "Don't you remember?" In asking, "don't you remember?" he probably also meant, "When will you trust me?" "What must I do to prove to you that I am here to help you?"

Whenever I am confronted with broken promises, new challenges, obstacles, disappointments instead of immediately recalling God's past interventions and solutions, I take a step backwards into fear territory and hear, "What if God doesn't help you this time?" Devious thoughts of "what will you do when you get old and feeble and have no one to care for you? What if your children move out of town? What will you do if your husband dies? What if there is not enough money to pay your bills? What if your car breaks down?"



After a while of traveling down the fear road I finally come to my senses. Jesus beckons me forward and asks me, "Don't you remember?" It is then that I grab my "Journal of Prayer Requests." I spend time thanking him for providing me

(continues on page 23)

Only believe

from my pallet
on the roof I blink at the sun
the teacher the healer is here
in this house bursting
with questions and infirmities

dust chokes me rains on my useless body
strong arms and hammers
claw at wood rip at sun-baked clay
my friends say believe
believe I repeat so they hear
I imagine what I never thought possible

Down down gentle now
men and women step aside
I land at the teacher's feet
He kneels to greet me
compassionate eyes stare into mine
examines my soul drowning in sin
a prisoner chained to his bed
whispers surround me the room grows quiet
the edge of a knife rides on the teacher's words
slicing the silence hostility on the fringes
of the scribe's garments

a heavy blanket lifts off me my sin is forgiven
His strong arms help me rise
energy surges through me
tingling feet tightening muscles
standing like a new-born calf
my brain teaches
what my limbs cannot remember
one step two then more
I will run dance
give thanks for the healer's gift
walk tall arms linked with those who believed
who brought me here

Carolyn Wilker

The Labyrinth of Life

by Nancy F. Revie

Yesterday, I walked the Labyrinth. Let me explain. The church where I work has a Labyrinth on loan. It is really a huge piece of canvass with a maze drawn on it. It takes you on a long, winding path, ending up in the middle. There is even a place where, if you so choose, you can step-out of the Labyrinth without completing your journey. The canvas is right in the middle of the church's sanctuary and takes up pretty much all the available space.

It was quiet, with soft music playing in the background. As I walked, I felt called to pray for each part of the church and what lay beyond the walls. I prayed for the staff in the office as I passed by and for the people who lived in the homes past the office and beyond the city. The same was true for each winding path—prayer for the building; angels surrounding and protecting it; the choir; the services; the leaders; the congregation; the church that shares the space and all who enter in.

Prayers kept pouring out of me—for family; friends that are hurting; joys in my life. Prayers for my husband, my children, that they would have a hope and future.

I prayed without ceasing and it felt good!

When I reached the middle; there set before me was a beautiful communion table. There was room for everyone I had thought to pray for and all others as well.

I shared communion with two of my sisters-in-Christ—leaders in the church. What joy filled my soul.

After communion, we repeated words to a benediction. Some of them included:

> "Glory to God, whose power
> working in us can do infinitely
> more than we could ask
> or imagine."

While my journey out of the Labyrinth followed the same path as going in, I did not recognize it. It felt different. As I got nearer and nearer to the end of my walk, I was moved to step up my pace. I was excited to be sent into the world to teach the God news of Jesus Christ.

I was refreshed and renewed, having spent only a few moments focussing on my Lord and creator.

My devotion that morning was 1 Samuel, Chapter 3. The verse that stayed with me was verse 19:

> "The Lord was with Samuel as he
> grew up, and he let none of his
> words fall to the ground."

As you walk your Labyrinth of Life–pray without ceasing, and when God speaks to you, answer, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

What joy will fill your soul!

Nancy is a free-lance writer and motivational speaker who lives in Guelph, Ontario with her family. She can be reached by email at nancy_revie@yahoo.ca

Birds of the Bible

by Jim Phillips

C E V U L T U R E

R A V E N E H G O

B U Z Z A R D C P

A O S T R I C H O

H W N O R E H I O

A L S T O R K C H

W O R R A P S K F

K A L L U G A E S

P I G E O N D N B

E A G L E V O D F

BUZZARD
CHICKEN
DOVE
EAGLE
HAWK
HEN
HERON
HOOPOE
OSTRICH
OWL
PARTRIDGE
PIGEON
RAVEN
SEA GULL
SPARROW
STORK
VULTURE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

Human Security Issues: Trade and Aid

Unfair trade barriers weaken human security. Industrialized countries spend over $300 billion annually to subsidize their agricultural economies. Yet poor countries are pressed to reduce or eliminate their subsidies. Trade barriers cost developing countries $100 billion a year, while the entire debt of the 52 poorest countries could be wiped out at a cost of $71 billion.

Aid programs, based on the principles of partnership, reciprocity and mutual accountability, make a difference to those living in developing countries. In 2000, the G7 countries provided, on average, 0.19% of their gross national income to aid. By contrast other donor countries' average contribution was 0.46%. Canada's aid budget in 2000 was 0.25% of its gross national income and will be increased annually from 2003 to 2005 to bring it up to 0.27% of the gross national income. This is only half the proportion Canada committed to overseas development in 1975 and much less than the international goal of 0.7% established in the 1960s.

Canadian churches continue to bring these issues to the Canadian government, by participating in such processes as the Dialogue on Foreign Policy that took place early in 2003.

One step we can take is to support fair trade programs which provide a hopeful and practical alternative to market fluctuations. From 1998 to 2001, sales of Fair Trade coffee in Canada increased by more than 12% to the benefit of over a million families. **It is Time for Justice!** Let us all promote the use of Fair Trade coffee at our churches' coffee socials and for individual use. This is a tangible way to assist coffee growers in developing countries.

Text: Dineke Kraay Editing & Design: Gail Turner

A Friend Multiplies Joys and Divides Sorrows

by Carolyn Wilker

It takes more than one hand to count my friends. I have been blessed in countless ways by their presence in my life. Some friendships began in childhood, and many more bloomed through high school, college and parenting years as I met people with varying cultural roots. Lasting relationships have grown from a welcoming word on the church doorstep or in my neighbourhood, studying the Bible together, meeting individuals who experience similar challenges and through community organizations.

My life has been enriched as friends supported me through some of life's obstacles: debilitating migraines, a defiant teenager, a daughter's cancer diagnosis and treatment, the death of a friend and a teen with chronic illness.

One friend reminds me that God is good, and helps me find what is positive when I've lost sight of God's presence. Another reminds me, "This too will pass," encouraging me that there is "light at the end of the tunnel." Many of them give me a shoulder to lean on and allow me to shed tears. All of them listen, several by long-distance calls and e-mail. Those times my sorrows are divided so that I go away, maybe not with a solution, but with courage to resume the fight knowing my friends will stand beside me. Those same dear friends rejoice with me when I have something to celebrate—exciting news of my first published manuscript, that my daughter's cancer is still in remission, or my appointment to the newspaper's editorial board. One success is magnified by all those voices of support.

Friendship is not a one-way street, though. I've done plenty of listening. Friends come to me when they need a place to dump their worries or deal with relationships in need of healing, financial problems, corporate downsizing that takes away a breadwinner's paycheque or illness that turns a life upside down. Helpful strategies may be the result when the struggle is one I'm familiar with, but usually my friend needs only my listening ear. I can feel her pain, but I cannot take it away any more than she can remove my obstacles

I rejoice with my friends on their successes—new jobs, promotions or their excitement on the birth of a new grandchild—whatever good thing brings them joy.

Proverbs has these thoughts to share on the subject: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."[1] and "A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity."[2]

Friends are valuable. They really do multiply our joys and divide our sorrows. Treasure them and remember friendship goes both ways.

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[1] Proverbs 16:24

[2] Proverbs 17:17

Carolyn Wilker is a freelance writer and member of The Word Guild and Canadian Authors Association. She was appointed to the Community Editorial board of The Record for 2003. Carolyn lives in Kitchener, Ontario with her husband and youngest daughter. They are members of St. Philip Lutheran Church.

Developing A New Understanding of Spirituality Working with First Nations People

by Margaret Mullin

I am discovering that Christian faith is nurtured over time with our First Nation's people. An existential not a programmatic approach is leading our Aboriginal brothers and sisters to Christ.

The Story tells the Tale

CB a 30-year-old First Nation's man gave his life over to God, committed himself to following Jesus, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Presbyterian Church. There was absolutely no plan for this happening except by the Spirit of God.

CB surfaced at Anishinabe Fellowship Centre a little over three years ago. He was an active leader of a street gang, sniffed into oblivion, unkempt, angry and belligerent. He created many disturbances at the Centre. He had a long criminal history and had not spent one Christmas out of detention or jail since his 12th birthday. CB often lied and used us for his own convenience. I think he was determined to make us give up on him so he could say, "See I told you. The Church is like every other institution."

But, with consistent love and acceptance, and by concentrating on being the presence of Christ in his life despite his frequent disrespectful treatment of staff, he slowly began to change. The loving, non-judgmental attitude of staff over the long haul got through this young man's tough exterior.

When CB finally began to attend services it was to check out this God thing. To check out what made us different. At first he would come in sniffed up, drunk, or drugged. He was always welcome to stay unless his behaviour became too disruptive to the worship.

He watched and he listened for two years. He thought; he questioned; he came and went from the fellowship. He had always considered himself bad and beyond redemption. Over the past summer and fall he was consistent at worship and an active volunteer at the Centre almost on a daily basis. He also joined the Saturday evening drumming group and is eagerly learning about his traditions from there, and from an Elder at the Aboriginal Centre.

CB has extricated himself from the gang. He has had no criminal charges for the past two years. He is married and has three young sons for whom Child and Family Services is finally giving him the chance to accept full responsibility. It was a long and gradual process until he asked publicly in the context of the worship service one Sunday to be baptized that day. This is not quite the Presbyterian way but it was the Spirit's way. After a public interview and his own profession of faith in Christ that day I baptized him. Four of our First Nation's elders sang

special songs for CB that day. There were tears of joy and hugs shared. Three other people shared their experience of God with the group. It was a powerful moment!

The worshipping fellowship has grown from five adults and four children four years ago to 60 adults with their 91 children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren registered into three Sunday School classes. We have grown out of space. Thanks be to God!

Rev. Margaret Mullin is director of Anishinabe Fellowship Centre, Inner City Mission, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Don't you Remember?

(continued from page 16)

with an enjoyable job when I needed one and how our money seemed to multiply so we could purchase a home. I reflect on how, over the years, he provided personal care and healed my various illnesses with faith, medication and rest. Other times, phone calls, letters and even furniture arrived at just the right time.

Undoubtedly, we all experience God's providential care. "If" is the middle two letters of life. Making time to remember our "God incidents" enables us to trust Him with all our "if's." We don't need to worry about the future. We just need to do our best, then like my Rainbow crawl up on his lap, stretch, relax and while leaving our dilemmas with him, fall peacefully asleep.

STAFF CHANGES

The Women's Missionary Society is pleased to welcome Holly Wilson to the position of Editor, Glad Tidings. Holly brings to the position a passion for writing and literature. She is pursuing a degree in English at York University and has recently enrolled in a Biblical Studies Certificate program at the same institution. Holly finds the Bible fascinating from a literary, historical and faith perspective.

For the past several years Holly served as Store/Internet Sales Manager for a large and successful bookstore in Newmarket, Ontario. She has also worked as a Project Coordinator for a non-profit magazine that promoted literacy for youth.

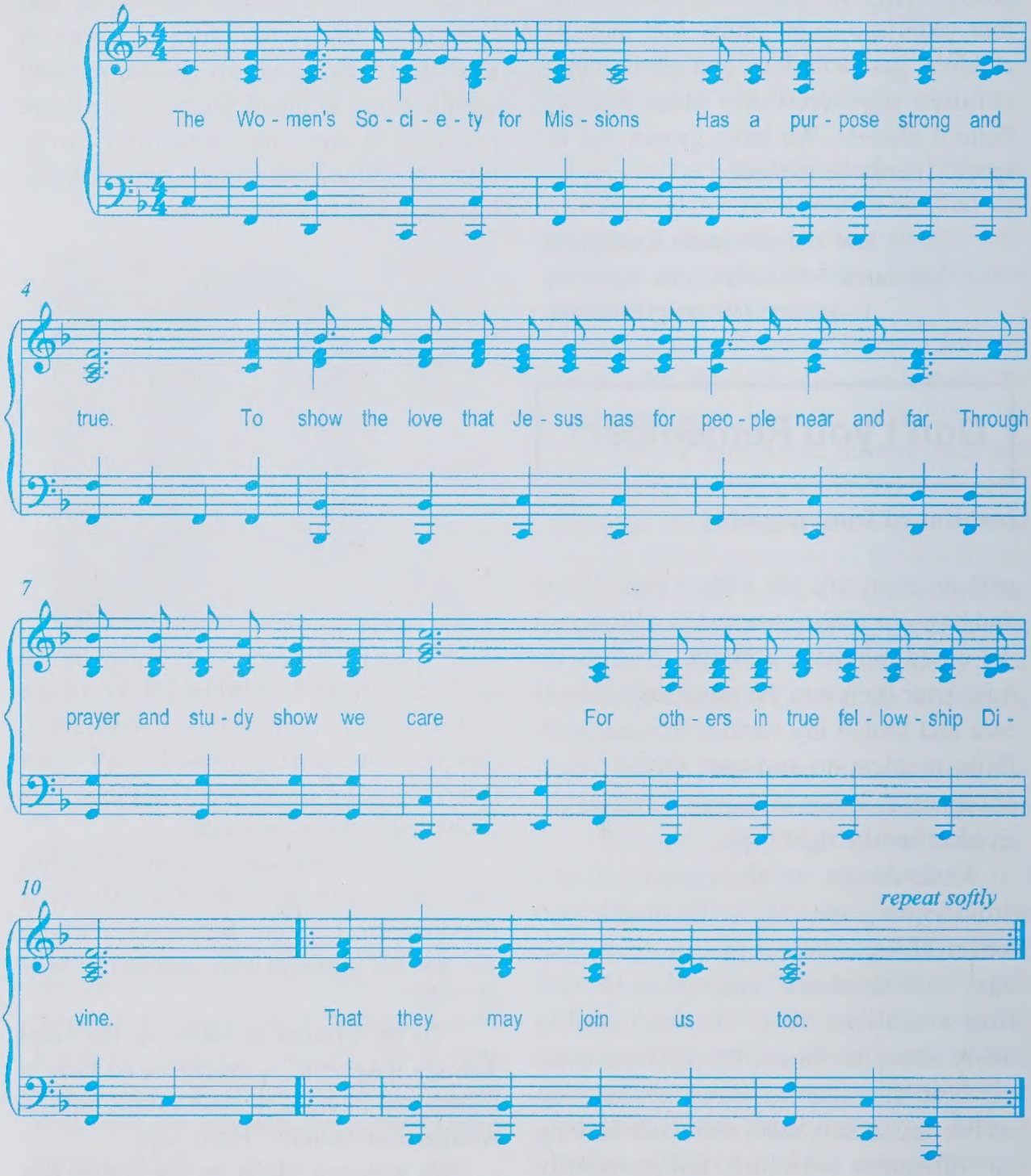
Singing is another passion of Holly's and she sings in the choir of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newmarket where she and her husband were married in May of 2003.

"To be selected as Editor of the Glad Tidings magazine, a magazine so rich in history and founded by such strong, faithful women is an honour," Holly says.

We welcome Holly as she begins this new phase of her life.

The W.M.S. Purpose

Words and Music
by Helen Hoggarth


The Wo - men's So - ci - e - ty for Mis - sions Has a pur - pose strong and
4
true. To show the love that Je - sus has for peo - ple near and far, Through
7
prayer and stu - dy show we care For oth - ers in true fel - low - ship Di -
10
repeat softly
vine. That they may join us too.

Instructions for Baby Cap

Use baby yarn and set of 4 needles number 10 or 3.25 mm.

Cast on 70 stitches (24, 24, 22).

Band: K1, P1 for 1 ½ inches.

Next row: Knit all around three needles.

Continue for 3-4 inches in this manner.

Next row: (Knit 8, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 7, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 6, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 5, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 4, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 3, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 2, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: (Knit 1, Knit 2 together) all around. Knit one row.

Next row: Knit 2 together all around remaining stitches. Thread yarn through remaining stitches. Draw up and fasten securely.

NOTE: The pattern for the baby toque on p. 24 (March/April 2004) is too large. Thanks to the Presbyterian Message here is one that fits.

Joanne Instance, past president, found an infant wearing a baby toque, a pneumonia vest and wrapped in an afghan while in India. Keep knitting folks.

HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS

At its convocation on Wednesday May 12, 2004, Knox College bestowed the degree Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) on Rev. John Congram and Lois Stewart Klempa.

John Congram has given outstanding creative leadership at various levels of the Church's life and mission. He graduated from Knox College in 1962 and went on to many years of congregational ministry before he was appointed Editor of The Presbyterian Record where he served for 14 years. In 1997, he was moderator of the 123rd General Assembly. Since his retirement in 2002, he has continued to give leadership as an Interim Minister.

Lois Klempa, a graduate of Ewart College (1958), is an outstanding example of creative leadership in our church. She has served the church in many ways, from membership on National Boards, a leader at the local and presbyterial levels of the WMS and a writer of both curriculum resources, articles and her latest book *Certain Women Amazed Us: The Women's Missionary Society, Their Story, 1864-2002*. Lois, like the women she wrote about, has worked quietly to bring about social change and strengthen the lives of those with whom she has come in contact. She has been a strong advocate for recognizing the role played by women in the church as well as the use of contemporary language which was inclusive of women and children.

On May 13 Eleanor Knott Crabtree was honoured by Presbyterian College, Montreal with a degree Doctor Divinitas (honoris causa). Eleanor served The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a missionary in India for 23 years.

Eleanor received a Bachelor of Sciences at the MacDonald Institute, Guelph and Master of Arts in Nutrition at the

University of Toronto. In preparation for ministry Eleanor spent two years at Columbia Bible College, South Carolina, specializing in Bible and Missions. In 1965 the Women's Missionary Society appointed her to Jhansi, near Delhi, India where she worked in the Helen MacDonald School, a boarding school housing some 200 students.

In 1981 Eleanor was seconded to the Christian Medical association of India with headquarters in Bangalore and later Nagpur. As Secretary for the Paramedical education she organized the first national Paramedical conference in India.

Presbyterian Magazines Win Awards

Glad Tidings and the Presbyterian Record came away from the Associated Church Press (ACP) and the Canadian Church Press (CCP) annual meeting with awards for 2003.

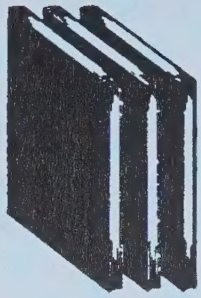
The Record did especially well with two awards from the ACP: Second Place (tie): Magazine Column—Peter Plymley II and Second Place (tie): Feature-Denominational Magazine—Amy Sedlezky: "Where have they gone?" (September).

From the CCP the Record took numerous awards including: First Prize: Opinion Piece—Mark Lewis: "Who is really on the Lord's side?" (May); First Prize: Original Written Humour-Pastoral Epistles from Peter Plymley II; First Prize: Colour Photo—Michael McAteer: Having identity papers checked (March); Honourable Mention: Front Cover-4 colour, Magazines and Journals—Artist: Ed Schnurr, Designer: Tim Faller Sex Issues (April) and Honourable Mention: General Excellence Magazines and Journals-Editor: David Harris, Designer: Tim Faller.

A special tip of the hat to their new writer, Amy Sedlezky; Mark Lewis, the former moderator; the enigmatic and perennial award winner, Peter Plymley; and to their designer, Tim Faller.

Glad Tidings won an honorable mention from the ACP for Feature-Denomination Magazine-Special Interest "Living Lines Group has the Write Attitude" by Ian Gillespie (January/February); and two honorable mentions from the CCP: Poetry-Magazines and Journals —L. June Stevenson "Autumn Artistry" (September/October) and Theological Reflection (Inspirational)—Joe Reed for "Reverse Mission" (May/June).

At the CCP banquet two Presbyterians were honoured with life memberships: John Congram, past editor of the Presbyterian and membership secretary for the CCP and L. June Stevenson, retiring editor of Glad Tidings and former President of the CCP. June and John are pictured below.



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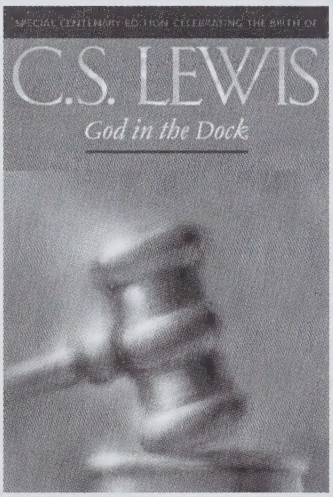
God in the Dock by C.S. Lewis. Harper Collins $15.50

A new Disney film version of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the first of which will be released in 2005, could well renew interest in author C.S. Lewis. Each night, in the early 1970s, our family enjoyed reading these books together, beginning with *The Magician's Nephew*, the prequel to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The stories present Christian truths in deceptively simple language, without heavy duty rhetoric.



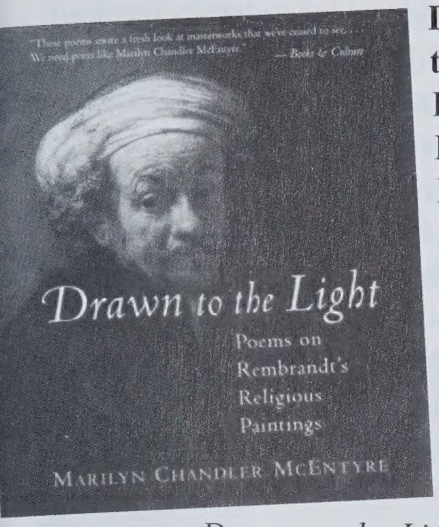
God in the Dock, a posthumous collection of Lewis' essays, debate presentations and letters (some never before published) and an interview with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, gives us a behind-the-scenes look at Lewis' understanding of Christianity and his conviction that it must be presented in vernacular English to those who don't know the scholarly codes. Ideas more fully developed in his other writings, can be found spreading their wings here.

Some of the more complicated essays require research to fully appreciate them and, in some cases, to challenge their assertions. For a group, each member reading and pondering the week before would make study more beneficial. Lewis' brilliant logic is admirable and clear; he had a great talent for presenting his case and a creative ability to present logic in pictures.

The concerns of Lewis, a late convert to Christianity, about issues such as vivisection or a humanitarian system of punishment, are as relevant today as when written. Persons reading/hearing "What Christmas Means to Me" or the satirical "Xmas and Christmas" would feel a reverberation in their hearts. If used as a group study, I recommend one C.S. Lewis fan reads through the collection, chooses particular pieces which challenge or match group themes and, with group preparation, devotes most of a meeting to that piece. If the going is too rough, encourage interested individuals to browse through *God in the Dock* to expand their C. S. Lewis knowledge.

Then, try reading *The Chronicles of Narnia* and having group discussions about how their truths apply to adult life, before you see the Disney movies.

Patricia Anne Elford



Drawn to the Light - Poems on Rembrandt's Religious Paintings by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre. Eerdmans Publishing $30.75

Drawn to the Light consists of McEntyre's pairing of eighteen poems with Rembrandt's eighteen religious paintings; as the jacket commentary states, it is "a feast for the eye and the imagination." The Dutch master's artworks are rendered by this poet in a devotional, irradiating dimension.

Both the first and last poems are entitled "Self-Portrait," and like bookends, encompass the canvas of Rembrandt's career. In the 1628 portrait, the artist learns to gaze upon his own face, "He learned how the dark defines what can be seen." In the 1669 portrait, the reader is instructed to "Peer into the shadows. Bless the body in its age ... for bearing the light awhile." One is grateful for the illumination in both artist and poet.

"Christ on the Cross" takes the reader into the painter's reflections, his prayer: "Let my hand not recoil from the body's truth ... Let me be true to the darkness you entered, O light of the world." The poet has succinctly described the light/dark imagery for which the painter himself is famous. It is to be noted that in the process of creation, the artist prayed over his painting.

"Moses Breaking the Tablets of the Law" is a poem that takes the reader into the thoughts of the human subject and the painting's represented moment. One sees Moses in his rage lifting high the tablets, viewing the carousing people: "What you do not deserve, he decides, I will destroy." McEntyre concludes with the image of a furious Moses "ready to cast down these stones before swine."

Although the disciples are not in the painting having a face-to-face encounter with the divine, the poet includes them as part of the story behind the painting. In "Jesus and the Woman at the Well," the disciples wonder: "Odd how he'll talk to anyone. Could get him into real trouble ... embarrassment for the rest of us." This interior technique certainly is an effective foreshadowing of the "trouble" Christ will face on His journey toward the cross.

In Rembrandt's wondrous painting, "The Return of the Prodigal Son," there is the intimacy of the father's loving, "joyful gaze" and the younger son's shame "in the shadow of a half-turned face." Also in this scene are richly attired observers depicted as men who have "accounts to settle," possibly the stewards or household members. Plus in the shadows, one might interpret, stands the older brother and his "reasonable resentment" the prodigal son is to endure. Again the dark and the light are paired by poet and painter.

"Christ at Emmaus" portrays Christ appearing in the flesh to two men at a meal, and their realization that He is back. Their former story, "memories already being edited and arranged," now has to be revised—for they face the resurrected Lord. McEntyre challenges the

reader by asking: "What would you do ... your heart beat in your throat." This line addressing the reader is truly stirring.

In conclusion, as rich as the colours, scenes and characters of the paintings are, so are the poems rich, perceptive and luminous. Brush and pen enhance each other. McEntyre's interpretations of Rembrandt's art draw the reader to the giver of these gifts, the Almighty God. Praise be to the Creator!

Joan Bond

The Gospel of John. A movie directed by Philip Saville.

Throughout movie history, there have been few movies that try to depict the life of Jesus Christ. In my lifetime, 19 years, the two big films about Jesus are *The Passion of the Christ* and *The Gospel of John*. I recently had the chance to watch *The Gospel of John* and was quite impressed with it. It displayed good cinematography, amazing music, and most importantly, it was accurate to scripture. The screenplay is divided up by chapters of the book of John, with each new scene illustrating a different chapter. It gives the movie a "read-a-long" feel which made me think that it would be an ideal tool for bible study.

Although it may not be as entertaining as *The Passion of the Christ*, *The Gospel of John* reaches you on a deeper level, and is able to do so without gallons of blood and violence. Furthermore, by focusing on the life of Jesus Christ, *The Gospel of John* intensifies the sacrifice he made on the cross, giving the movie a richer and deeper foundation.

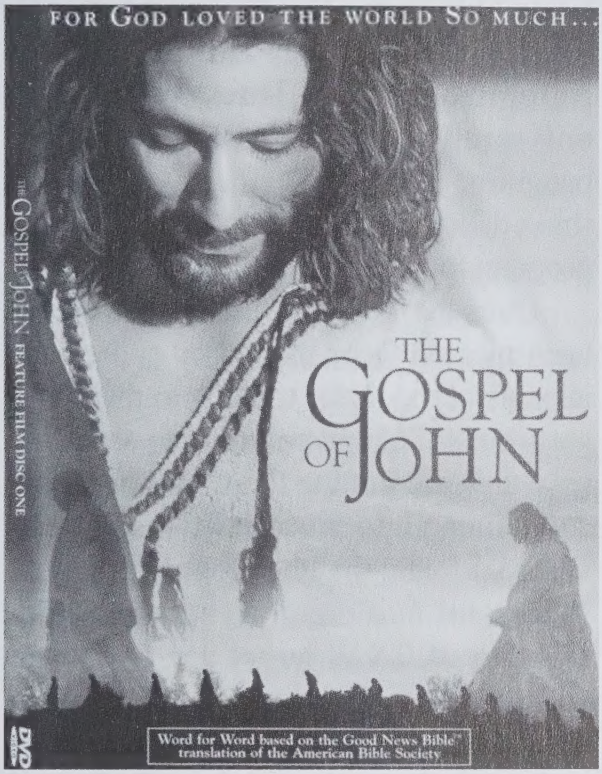
The Passion of the Christ is more on the surface level, and does not reach deeper than seeing a man being tortured and killed. It does not focus on Jesus' ministry, but mainly on his death. *The Gospel of John* is a better movie to watch if you want to know about who Jesus was, and why he is our Savior. It gives a much better understanding of how much Jesus sacrificed for us.

Insight into Jesus' life was not only on a spiritual level, but on a human level as well. The main reason I enjoyed this movie is because of the way it makes Jesus appear human. Jesus came down to earth, not as a God, but as a human being. This movie displays Jesus' emotions and troubles as well. For example, before Jesus was captured, his heart trembled, and he contemplated whether or not to ask God if he had to die: "Should I ask, Father, do not let this hour come upon me." Jesus' human qualities make his sacrifice on the cross more powerful.

Realizing that he is human, we can relate to the type of suffering he must have faced. We have a deeper understanding of the emotional pain Jesus must have gone through before dying on the cross. Another aspect that this movie grasped well was Jesus' passion for his ministry. Whether he is teaching to the crowds of people or speaking with the Pharisees, he is consistently passionate about the Word. This is something I did not fully realize from reading the gospel of John. Finally, the movie showed Jesus' human emotions when he became furious in front of the temple. Even after hearing this story being told in sermons and bible studies many times, I was not able to fathom the true depth of Jesus' anger. After watching how the movie depicted this scene, Jesus became very real to me.

Analyzing and watching this movie several times, I have come to the conclusion that it is well-made and complete to the last detail. It teaches about the life of Jesus, and makes His life real. I recommend it to people of all ages, and encourage families to watch it together.

Josh Kim


FOR GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH...
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
FEATURE FILM DISC ONE
Word for Word based on the Good News Bible translation of the American Bible Society

***The Gospel of John*, directed by Philip Saville, co-produced by Garth Drabinsky and adapted for the screen by John Goldsmith, is now available in video stores, select retail stores or by ordering on-line at**

www.gospelofjohnthefilm.com.

The film is narrated by Christopher Plummer and stars Henry Ian Cusick as Jesus Christ. Presbyterian professors Peter Richardson and Patricia Dutcher-Walls were consultants for the film. The motion picture sound track is also available at most music stores or by accessing the web page.

Forward in Faith

When the March/April column of Forward in Faith was written, we did not have the receipts from presbyterials to the end of 2003. The total receipts for 2003 amounted to $700,645; this was $51,719 less than in 2002. On investigation we discovered that one presbyterial sent in the balance of their givings for the year after our books were closed. On further investigation, we found that another presbyterial did not submit any givings until the latter part of April 2004. This meant that a total of $29,637 was not included in our report. In others words, the total givings of our members was $730,282 in 2003.

The result of this situation is that our statements for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 will not give a true picture of presbyterial givings. 2003 shows less than was contributed, 2004 will show more than was contributed and 2005 will appear to be much less than in 2004.

You realize why we stressed in this column last year the importance of submitting your presbyterial givings every two months. Final contributions at year end should be submitted in the first week in January with cheques dated December 31 of the year they were received.

Having completed my term as treasurer, the recent council meeting elected Jacquie Allen as the society's treasurer, so you will become familiar with Jacquie's name in this column in the months ahead. I shall continue as a member of council for the coming year, to help familiarize Jacquie with the work of the treasurer's position. We wish satisfaction and every blessing for Jacquie as she takes up her new responsibilities.

Giollo Kelly, Co-treasurer

MISSION IN ACTION

Sonya Henderson
Cluj-Napoca
Romania

September 2003—In January 2002 I received a phone call from Linda Shaw, a trainer in the Young Children and Worship (C&W) program. She heard that I was organizing an English summer camp in Cluj, Romania, and that I was looking for a resource person. She offered her assistance as a C&W program trainer to Hungarian Reformed ministers and diaconal students. The training was a success not only because the program was well received by the participants, but also because of the large group effort to make the camp a reality. Donations and financial support were given by the WMS, the Life and Mission Agency, and numerous individual congregations. Contributions aided with training expenses and provided the trainees with the many supplies needed to start using the program.

One of the most rewarding aspects of having organized the initial training is being able to see the continuing growth of the program in the Hungarian Reformed Church, Transylvania. Not only are the trainees using the C&W program, but some of them are so enthused that they wish to introduce the program to other Christian educators.

Over the last year and a half, I have been pleased to be invited by some participants of the initial training to their congregations. They were proud to show me how they are putting the C&W materials and training into practice. In the places I visited, I found that the program is highly successful and popular, not only with children of C&W target age (3-7), but with the older youth as well.

Attila Tokes, one of the ministers I visited, recently graduated from Reformed Theology and has begun his ministry in a small village about 45 km from Cluj. He told me that he was grateful to have participated in the training as he is not only serving as the village minister, but also finds himself responsible for

A group shot at a children's camp in Romania.

the Christian education of the children in the community. It is a common scenario in villages for the minister to fulfill a double role: that of minister and Christian educator. It is only the city centers, like Cluj, where larger congregations have the resources, along with interested and educated lay people who run the Church school program. Unfortunately, theological training in Transylvania does not include much practical instruction on Christian education for children. Attila told me that he felt he would have been at a loss without the C&W training and materials.

In January 2002 I was approached by leaders of the C&W program at the Kokos Templom (Rooster Church) in Cluj. After the initial training, they incorporated the program into their congregation. Currently, they have a group of six people running C&W. They were pleased not only with the program, but with the response of the children and their parents. They were so impressed with the program that they were interested in working together to hold a second C&W training—this time in Hungarian. This would allow Christian educators and ministers to learn, benefit from and use the program regardless of their English ability. From July 7-10, we welcomed 21 diaconal and religious education students who came to attend the 3 ½ day training which they received with much wonder and enthusiasm.

This particular training would not have been possible without the financial assistance provided by International Ministries, and the WMS who graciously donated enough money from their Christian Literature Fund to purchase the C&W books for each participant. It also would not have been possible without the continued assistance of Linda Shaw and Dorothy Henderson, who sent helpful hints and guidelines. Another group I must thank is from Knox Spadina, Toronto, who so kindly carried the C&W books all the way from Canada to Romania, and finally, the hard work and dedication of Gyongyi Sogor and Ildiko Makai, my two co-organizers.

What is most exciting to me is how one small action of mission can generate cooperation and continued ripple effects; how from one telephone conversation years ago, the C&W program has grown and flourished here in Romania. The reality is that as time passes, my involvement becomes less and less. It is now the people within the Hungarian Reformed Church who are continuing to use the program and who are sharing it with others. These expanding, concentric circles of mission

Overseas Staff Birthdays

OCTOBER

2 - Sonya Henderson, Romania
5 - Kennis Kim, Guatemala
8 - Jillian Fraser, Bahamas
20 - Lezlie Cowley Allison, Cameroon
25 - Steven Ross, Ukraine

NOVEMBER

2 - Fernando Cascante, Costa Rica (USA)
7 - Joe Reed, Central America
12 - Rosalie Howard, India
16 - Richard Schwarz, Nepal

not only provide the opportunity for countless children to experience the wonder of God's love and the stories of the Bible, but also serve to strengthen the connection between the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Hungarian Reformed Church in Transylvania.

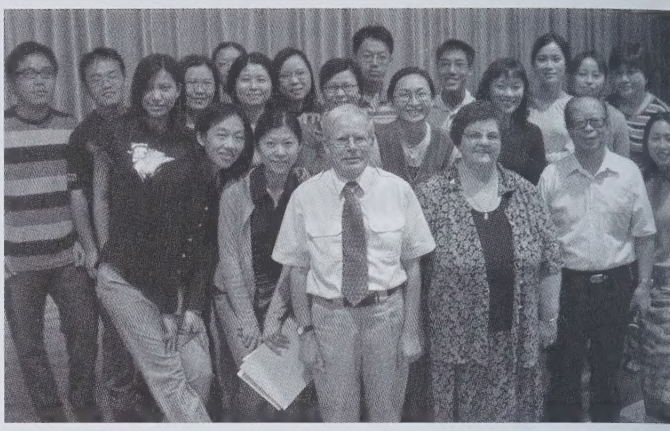
Sonya Henderson

Michael Tai
Taichung, Taiwan

2003—Missionaries used to play a very important role in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. There were more than ten missionaries serving here at one time. The number of missionaries, however, has steadily decreased in the last decade. With the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Geddes in 2003, there remains only one full-time missionary, Joy Randall; Louise Gamble, a volunteer; and myself, an associate missionary.

Some people think that missionaries are no longer needed or even appreciated in third world countries. Missionaries from Canada are still very much appreciated and welcome in Taiwan. Joy is packing and will soon leave here to retire in Canada. That will vacate the Canadian presence in the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan which Canadians helped establish close to 130 years ago. I pray that more Canadian missionaries arrive soon; this is still a land where missionaries are very much needed.

2003 was a great year. I was most grateful for the visit from Dr. Ron Wallace, Secretary of International Ministries.



Ron Wallace, Joy Randall and Michael Tai

Ron and Joy spoke to my students at the Chungshan Medical University. Ron spoke on the call to serve from a Christian perspective and Joy briefly introduced the work of Dr. Leslie Mackay. Students told me how they valued and enjoyed this visit and how they hoped that this kind of visit could take place more often.

Thanks to the Record, Glad Tidings and the Message which I receive on a regular basis from the Life and Mission Agency, I started a new form of ministry on campus in 2003; I call it a "silent literary ministry." I asked the maintenance department of my university to build bookshelves outside my office to display these materials, and some devotional and spiritual books sent to me from an elder (Lois Lawrence) of Parkview Church in Saskatoon. Many students have come to read or borrow these materials periodically. This also motivated some students to come in to talk to me about Christian faith. I am pleased that this silent literary ministry works. If anyone is willing to take part in this ministry it would be most appreciated.

Besides teaching and student ministry, I have been involved in committee work of the Ministry of Health and the

Ministry of Education of Taiwan. This requires my going to Taipei to attend meetings frequently; however, I appreciate the chance to be part of the decision-making on policies related to health and on medical education in Taiwan.

Beginning this year the Ministry of Health will require every physician in Taiwan to take at least 18 hours of continuing education on medical ethics and law before renewal of their clinical licences. As a result of this new regulation, I have received many invitations to speak to physicians on continuing education programs. This was a great opportunity for me to share my faith when lecturing on bioethics. Many Christian physicians have come forward to introduce themselves to me.

Since my main interest is in the areas of theo-bioethics, I joined some biomedical associations. The International Society for Clinical Bioethics unexpectedly elected me the vice-president of this academic group in 2003. This gave me chances to learn and meet more people internationally.

Working for Christ is indeed exciting. In the midst of my busy ministry, I need strength from God. Thanks to the WMS and other women's groups back home who regularly pray for me and send cards to encourage me. May I take this opportunity to express my most heartfelt thanks to them. Though I could not answer them all, their encouragement is deeply appreciated. Your prayer is indeed my strength. Thanks be to God for His glory.

Michael Tai

Richard Schwarz
Nepal

March 2004—For those who didn't notice, we were back in Canada over Christmas for six weeks. The kids (and us!) all had a great time. They learned to skate and ski, and got into tobogganing, snow forts and snowball fights in a big way. We were much blessed by the many people who opened their hearts and homes to us during our stay. The kids really enjoyed hanging out with all their cousins (18 in Canada) and it was a good time for us catching up with family and old friends. With such a short time we missed some folk. I was touched by the interest and commitment friends have shown in regard to what is happening at Green Pastures Hospital; it has been a real encouragement to our staff and patients.

The war continues unabated here. The death toll is well over 2,000 since last September, and coming from Sri Lanka to here we noticed how peaceful Sri Lanka seemed compared with the police/army presence here. Even traffic police are armed now, making accidental casualties much more likely.

Things went well at Green Pastures during my absence, although there were certainly a whack of operations to get through when I got back. Fortunately my Nepali counterpart turned up from Kathmandu and did some cases for me. He thinks that he will be transferred back here within the month, which will free me up a bit. We also just found out that we

have a Christian Nepali medical student bonded to us who will graduate next year. This is great news for us. As well we have an expatriate doctor in the pipeline that will be able to take over a lot of my management duties within the year. Staff wise, things are looking pretty good. We have been greatly encouraged by seven folk who have come to faith in the last two months. Phillip Yancey visited the hospital as well during his time here at our INF conference. His words that we are "baked dirt" but with such a treasure within were an encouragement to us (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Yancey had us discuss our Mary/Martha tendencies in small groups, and not surprisingly, the vast majority of us tend to the Martha side, or we wouldn't be here!

Please pray that we would take times of quiet with the Lord, so that when we are thrust back into the maelstrom that is often life here, we would go with joy and peace behind it all.

Ling

What joy it is as we enter into the Easter season to be reminded that this is THE celebration of the Christian year. It reflects the paradox of Christ's message that the Passion is mixed suffering and joy, death and life, service and victory, the Kingdom is now and not yet. And among the many paradoxes of our faith is the balance of faith and works. May He reveal Himself to us all more clearly.
Blessings.

Richard & Ling, Jon, Daniel &
Christina Schwarz

In Memoriam

Mrs. Margaret (Wallis) Strang, dedicated member of Caven Church, Exeter, Ontario and several times president of the local WMS, died on February 19, 2004. She was an honorary member of the WMS and president of the Hamilton and London synodical during the 75th anniversary.

Margaret graduated from Macdonald Institute, Guelph in 1936, in Institutional Management. She was president of the Hurondale Institute, the Huron District South and the London Area in 1961-62. She received her life membership from Huron District South in 1971.

Margaret was the sister-in-law of the missionary Margaret Strang Savage, doctor and missionary in northern Alberta. She taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and was a very active member in all activities of the church.

Margaret and Harry Strang had five children: Marilyn Clarke of Thorold, moderator of Niagara Presbytery 2004 and elder of Knox Church, St. Catherines; Bernice Thompson, elder at the Exeter Caven Church; Gordon Strang; Keith Strang, who lives on the Strang family property. All children reside in Exeter or surrounding area except Nancy Ross from St. Marys.

Correction:

An error appears on page 21 of the May/June issue. Dorothy Anderson, Medicine Hat, AB received a Life Membership Certificate, not an Honorary Certificate.

NEWS

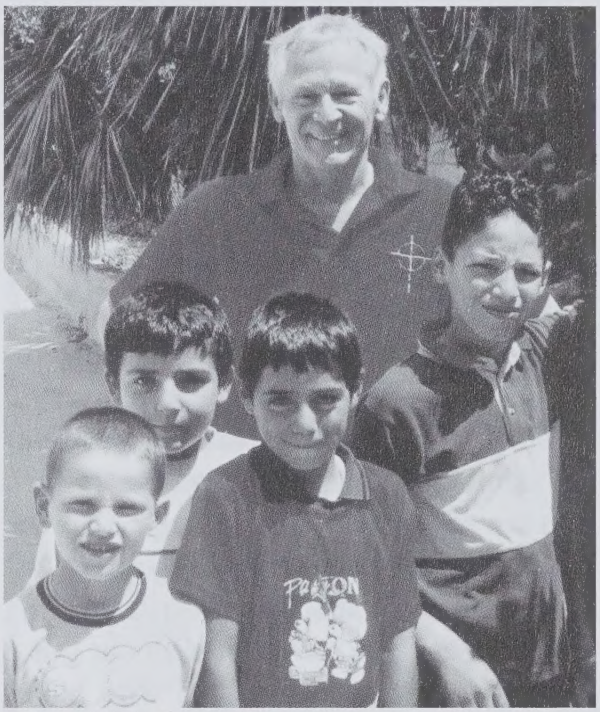
Rick Fee Moderator-Designate

Rev. Rick Fee is Moderator-Designate for the 2004 General Assembly. Rick, a native of Killam, Alberta, maintains strong roots within the Killam-Galahad pastoral charge. He attended the University of Alberta; Saint Patrick's College, Ottawa; Carleton University, Ottawa; Knox College and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He has degrees in sociology, comparative world religions and divinity.

Upon graduation from Knox College in 1976, Rick was appointed by the Board of World Mission to work within The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. He remained in Nigeria until 1992 first serving as a rural parish minister (Ezzikwo, Abakaliki) and then as deputy clerk of the General Assembly for ten years. From 1987 to 1992, he was Africa liaison visiting all areas in Africa where The Presbyterian Church in Canada had partnerships, personnel and projects.

Since November 1992, Rick has served as Director of Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). He is the vice-chairperson of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. He serves on the board of Action by Churches Together: the international body uniting church responses to emergency situations around the world. Rick represents PWS&D on the board of KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. He also serves on the Heads of Agencies Network, the World Council of Churches body uniting development and relief agencies.

Rick has been a guest speaker at several synod, presbytery and congregational events, and at AMS and WMS meetings. A member of the Presbytery of East Toronto, he serves on its administration committee. Rick has an adopted Nigerian son, Nkwuda, who, with his wife, Kelechi, have a daughter, Kendra Ifeoma.



Rev. Rick Fee with a group of children in the middle east

Taiwan Appeals for Help

Based on our Christian faith and belief, our Biblical understanding of love, ethics, and basic human rights of all peoples, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) humbly appeals to citizens around the world to support Taiwan's application for membership and full participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) and related World Health Assembly (WHA). We seek your support and assistance in bringing this request to the attention of WHO, the UN, your local MPs/Senators and respective Governments.

As a faith community we especially appeal to all PCT partner churches and related ecumenical organizations to make this an issue of prayer and action. We further ask our Christian sisters and brothers to bring this request to the attention of your relevant church committees and church courts.

PCT sincerely and firmly believes the question of WHO membership transcends politics—it is a matter of basic human rights. The 23 million citizens of Taiwan, and the thousands of foreign nationals residing in our country, should not be deprived of their right to the services WHO provides. On the other hand neither should we be denied the right to make our contribution to the world community.

A highly developed, educated, affluent and democratic nation, the people of Taiwan are eager and willing to give of their knowledge, expertise and resources to others. This is clearly demonstrated by the commendable record of both our government and various NGOs who have provided international medical assistance and contributed substantially to humanitarian aid and disaster relief in other countries on numerous occasions.

The fact that Taiwan is denied the right to participate fully in WHO leaves a major gap in the global battle against epidemics and the general public health and well being of all God's people. A fact painfully highlighted in 1998 when the "entero virus" infection claimed the lives of nearly 80 Taiwanese children and yet again during the 2003 SARS epidemic.

Rev. Chen Dao.Shiung, Moderator 49th General Assembly; Rev. Chen Hsin-Liang, Vice Moderator 49th General Assembly; and Rev. William J. K. Lo, General Secretary

Christian Forum Congratulates the New Government

New Delhi 14/05/04—The National United Christian Forum congratulated the secular democratic forces led by the congress for securing sufficient seats in the 14th Lok Sabha general elections and being in a position to form the next government.

While the United Christian Forum thanks the outgoing NDA government for its achievement in many areas of its governance and notes with a little regret its deafening silence towards those fundamentalists who were spreading hatred against the minorities, it expresses its pleasure that a non-communal government will be in place at the Centre soon.

"We congratulate the congress leader Mrs. Sonia Gandhi for working so hard to bring the party back to the centre of political activities in the country after its rather poor earlier performance. We note that this mandate by the people of India is to strengthen the secular traditions for which India is known the world over," said Delhi Archbishop Vincent M. Concessao, the President of the forum.

The forum in its recent meeting also congratulated the election commission for its commendable job in holding these elections successfully. The forum, however, reminds the new government that it can forget its promises made to the poor and to the minorities only at its own peril as the recent results to the Lok Sabha amply demonstrate. Archbishop Concessao has also reiterated the Church's commitment to the poor and the down-trodden for whom it has always stood.

Archbishop Vincent M. Concessao, President; Rev. Dr. Ipe Joseph, General Secretary NCCI; and Rev. Richard Howell, Secretary EFI

Church under assault

April 8, 2004–Cubans are growing worried that the United States' war on terrorism may soon serve as an excuse for new attacks on the Caribbean island nation. "We're living in difficult and dangerous times internationally, and we may soon be facing even more difficult times. In his effort to win the state of Florida (in upcoming US elections), President George W. Bush is going to make concessions to the Cuban right in Miami, and so it will be a very dangerous year for the Cuban people," said Dr. Reinerio Arce, the former president of the Council of Churches of Cuba.

Arce said that throughout decades of confrontation between Castro and a succession of U.S. leaders, the churches on both sides of the Florida Straits have been "the principal bridge of reconciliation between the U.S. and Cuban people." Arce adds churches in both nations will continue to play key roles. Dr. Arce is a minister in the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba which is a partner of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Cuban church is already under assault, however, from new religious groups who are provoking division in many churches or robbing members from existing churches. Arce said that it was part of a U.S. government program to fund non-governmental organizations, including churches, to carry out anti-Castro activities in Cuba.

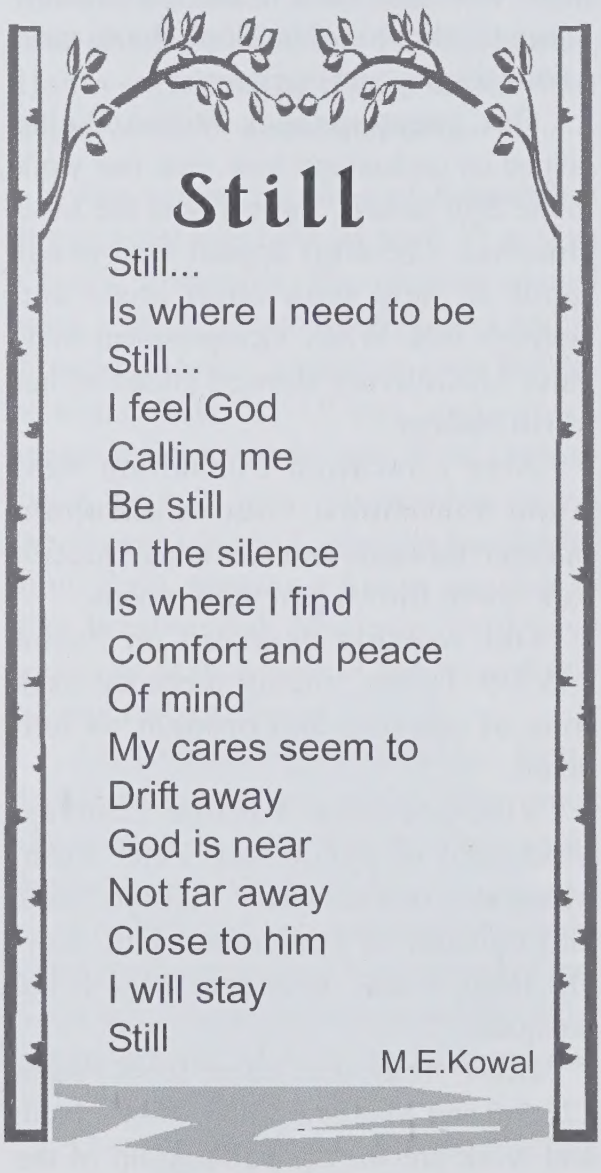
Adapted from news item by Paul Jeffrey

New Bishop Consecrated for Jabalpur Diocese

The Rev. Prem Chand Singh was consecrated as the new Bishop of Jabalpur Diocese on Sunday 25 April, following his election on 13 April, 2004.

Rev. Singh, who is presently the elected Diocesan Secretary and a Presbyter in the Diocese of Jabalpur, was ordained as a Presbyter on 8th April, 1990. He holds a degree in Sociology from Rani Durgawati Viswavidyalaya, Jabalpur and a B.D. from Serampore University. He is married to Nora and they have a ten-year-old son, Piyush and a seven-year-old daughter, Priyanka.

From CNI News source



In the Society

Synodical

Synodical of **Southwestern Ontario** met on April 20-21 to celebrate the harvest in Drummond Hill Church, Niagara Falls. Vice-president Pauline Lindsay chaired this celebration.

Preceding the day's events, Margaret Vanderzweerde sold artifacts from the Bhil field. The proceeds from the sale of these items were sent back to the Bhil people. Susan Clarke from The Book Room gave a book display and commentary.

Our guest speaker Wilma Welsh helped us understand how vital our work in the Bhil field is, especially at the Jobat Hospital. The Bhil appeal also needs funds to help with court costs and lawyer's fees. WMS Vice-president Margaret McGillivray showed slides of her trip to Malawi.

Area Education Consultant Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Youth Consultant Spencer Edwards and Camping Director Rev. Gwen Brown gave staff reports.

Our worship centered on Psalm 145:1-9. Lively singing preceded each time of worship and brought us into union.

Vice-president Pauline Lindsay, Moderator of Synod Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of Presbytery Marilyn Clark and minister of Drummond Hill, Rev. Dr. Hugh Jones, gave greetings at the banquet.

Bible study was taken from Psalm 126:5-6 and Matthew 13:33, 44-45. Faith and work are for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Presbyterial

Knox Church in Iroquois, Ontario, hosted the spring meeting of the **Brockville** Presbyterial. Twenty members and guests gathered for an afternoon of worship, study, business and fellowship. President Catherine Blatch conducted the meeting and members from the Kemptville and Morrisburg groups led the theme of devotions on *The Meaning of Faith*. In a commentary on Matthew 9, it was noted that following Jesus sometimes requires difficult and painful choices and, like Matthew, we must decide to leave behind those things that would keep us from Christ. Following Christ's example, we should share the gospel with everyone not just the wealthy, popular and powerful.

Prayers were offered for all mission staff working for our church and special prayers were said for the people imprisoned in the Bhil area of India.

Christian Education Co-ordinator Christine Ball spoke on the theme *Speaking Out About Our Faith*. She emphasized that sharing the Gospel is essential to the growth of the church. Seventy-five percent of new people in church come because they have been invited. What we say about our faith, and how we live each day, should make others want to come and see for themselves what the Gospel is all about. Jesus was an evangelist and we must be too!

In the business meeting, members voted to send money to India to enable two children to attend school for one year. As well, each group in the Presbyterial was encouraged to sponsor at least one child.

Bible Trivia

Compiled by Eve Stickland

Did you know . . .

"The most widely translated Bible book is the Gospel of Mark—the shortest of the four Gospels about Jesus. It's available in about 900 languages."

How to Get Into the Bible
by Stephen M. Miller.
Thomas Nelson Publishers

Tolmie Church, Port Elgin, Ontario, hosted the 90th annual meeting of the **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial on April 7, registering 64 members and guests who represented 14 local WMS groups. Jane Wolfe, president of the afternoon Port Elgin WMS group, led singing in the sanctuary. The choice of hymns fittingly established the theme of our meeting *Let Your Spirits Soar*.

Presbyterial President Eleanor Crabtree opened the meeting with prayer and welcome. Rev. Julia Morden, Port Elgin, extended an additional warm welcome. The Burgoyne WMS group presented the Worship and In Memoriam; 13 names made up the memoriam and the worship was based on the scripture reading 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

Minutes of the annual meeting of 2003 were read by recording secretary and historian Evelyn Jack, Dundalk, and were accepted. Jean Black, treasurer, Swinton Park, presented her report, which was also accepted. Eleanor Crabtree, outgoing president, was thanked and presented with a gift in appreciation of her work during her term. Jane Wolfe gave a review of some of the books from the book display.

The afternoon session began with a hymn-sing and opening prayer. Special music was provided by a quartet of Port Elgin members. Our guest speaker Wilma Welsh, recently retired from her position in International Ministries, spoke of her time spent in mission fields in Taiwan, and among the Bhil people in India. Singing the hymn *Jesus, Life of all the World* had new meaning after hearing our speaker.

Report of the nominating committee was followed by installation of officers by Area Education Consultant Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Hamilton. Pat Carpenter, Hanover, extended thanks to the Port Elgin WMS for their hospitality.

The annual meeting of **Edmonton** Presbyterial was held on April 17 at First Church, Edmonton. The meeting opened with a short prayer by President Molly Freeman. Irene Colquhoun gave the devotions. Acts 7:1-11 was read, which makes reference to the way of the cross as being the right way. The president gave a warm welcome to Catherine Leadbetter from Perth, Ontario, a former member of this Presbyterial. Marjorie Scott gave greetings from synodical and moved that all reports be accepted.

All present enjoyed lunch. Betty Lewis, treasurer, said grace. After lunch there was a short hymn-sing; Edna Murray played the piano.

The offering was received and dedicated by the president. It was decided that $100 be given to the young people of the presbytery and $100 to the Jobat mission in India.

Our special speaker for the meeting was Agnes Hislop, a former missionary

in Jobat. Agnes gave an interesting talk on her work in the Bhil field, which she illustrated with slides.

Agnes installed the officers for 2004 and Betty gave the closing prayer.

The annual meeting of **Essex-Kent** Presbyterial was held at First Church, Chatham, Ontario, on March 18. Rev. Mike Maroney of our host church extended greetings.

Knox Church, Leamington, led the devotions with the theme *Joy*. Women of St. Andrew's, Dover, lit a memorial candle and named those members who had died in the past year. A short service followed.

President Lily Jones constituted the meeting with prayer. Secretary Muriel Brown took the roll call and read the minutes of the last annual meeting. Barbara Root gave the treasurer's report and we were pleased that we had reached a bit more than our goal. Alice Brown gave the correspondence, and the reports were discussed and approved. Doris Bryant gave a *Glad Tidings* minute report and Eleanor Hansen gave a book report with, as usual, some amusing comments.

After lunch, Ruth Smith led the women in a sing-along. Doris introduced our guest, Persis Lol Chako, who came to Windsor, and St. Andrew's Church, from the Bhil region of India. She was born and raised in Jobat and attended Helen Macdonald School from grade two through high school. Persis was the first baby delivered by Isabel McConnell who was a missionary nurse at Jobat Hospital. Persis became a technologist at the hospital. She met her husband George at seminary and they had five children. George is an elder at St. Andrew's Church, Windsor. Alice Brown thanked Persis.

Eleanor Hansen gave the nominating report. Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs installed the officers for 2004.

Kevin Kaye of United Christian Broadcasters was the main speaker at the annual meeting of **Kingston** Presbyterial held at St. Andrew's Church, Trenton, on March 26. Members present were delighted to hear of the policy change which has allowed a Christian broadcasting group, founded in New Zealand and now operating worldwide, to acquire a licence in Canada and begin broadcasting from Belleville. Kevin explained that they offer a full range of programming, all of it (except perhaps the weather?) from a Christian perspective. Their vision is to expand elsewhere as frequencies become available. They are grateful for support and prayer.

Our new president, Olive Brinson, chaired the business meeting and Rev. Lynda Reid installed new officers.

Lunch was followed by a great time of singing led by Trish Monaghan. Audrie Cossar and Judy MacLeod led an afternoon program encouraging the group to think about communication. Through a skit, games and a video, we focused on the words we use and the opportunities for spreading the good news through our words, broadcasting and TV, particularly overseas. The laughter we enjoyed as we tried to construct churches and TV aerials from marshmallows and tooth picks was just one part of a day of warm Christian fellowship. The day began and concluded with meaningful times of worship led by the Trenton and Tweed groups respectively.

London Presbyterial retreat was held on May 6 at Pearce Williams Christian Centre. Fifty WMS members were welcomed by President Ida Human. The theme for the day was *India's Century of Mission* and *Jungle Tales* from the book by Dr. John Buchanan.

Winn Files from New St. James Church, who was raised in India (her parents were missionaries for thirty years), gave a wonderful presentation. Her stories of life among the Bhils as a child were fascinating. She brought articles of clothing and jewellery worn by the Bhils which everyone had a chance to examine and even try on.

At morning tea break everyone enjoyed samosas and chai tea provided by Winn. Two skits and a "playlet" were acted out for entertainment. The skits were presented by North Caradoc St. Andrew's and were based on stories from *Jungle Tales*. The "playlet" was presented by Knox St. Thomas and was based on the book *My Mother* by Ruth Buchanan.

Marion Weldon brought us up to date on several of the latest books available from The Book Room and Kay Eichenberger led a lively "get fit" session.

During the business portion of the afternoon we were once again reminded to keep knitting pneumonia prevention vests, baby toques and blankets to be shipped to India.

Rev. Amanda Birchall from Guthrie Church, Melbourne, brought the day to a close with a meaningful worship service.

From Strength to Strength was the theme for the 90th annual meeting of the **Montreal** Presbyterial that took place on March 6 in St. Andrew's Church, St. Lambert. The meeting began with a welcome from the host church given by Joyce Wilson followed by a brief history of the church and the congregation by June Lane-Gouzopoulos. Anita Mack, a member of St. Andrew's and the Area Education Consultant for Quebec, conducted the opening devotions. The business meeting followed, with the president, Genevieve Holding, in the chair. The various reports were adopted.

Guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Barry Mack, minister at St. Andrew's and also very knowledgeable on the history of the church, gave an enlightening and sometimes amusing presentation on some of the historical aspects of the church in Montreal and environs.

Lunch, prepared and served by the men, followed. There was ample time to catch up on news before reassembling for the afternoon program, with the men left downstairs to clear and do the dishes!

A short but rousing hymn-sing started the afternoon, led by Steve Gilson, the organist and music director at St. Andrew's and with the assistance of the women's choir from Côte des Neiges Church.

Rev. Dr. Mack then showed an edited and updated version of the video of the Church Family Photo Album, an excellent presentation incorporating some of the CBC television series *Heritage Minutes* that portrays the work and actions of prominent Presbyterians who influenced Canada's history. After the film, members were asked to recall special achievements, either by their own WMS group, or by the presbyterial.

Before closing with the benediction, Rev. Dr. Mack installed the officers for the coming year.

The annual meeting of **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held at Point Edward Church with the theme *With the Lord as Your Guide*. Jeff Lachie, minister of the church, welcomed everyone.

Margaret McDonald presided over the morning session and opened with prayer. In the absence of Area Consultant Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Fleur Eenkhoorn introduced the mission study on the Bhil people of India. The Bhil field is a small area in the middle of India. Currently Christians there are being persecuted; houses are being burned and people are being injured and even killed. Pauline Brown, a missionary, is working in this region and needs our prayers and support at this unsettled time.

Fleur had colourful pictures showing different aspects of life and the work being done to help make the lives of the Bhil people a little better. This mission study will be used over two years and will give the WMS an opportunity to learn more about India and the Bhil people.

A WMS honorary membership certificate was presented to past president Anna Jean McCoskery for her dedicated leadership during the past four years.

Annual reports were discussed and approved.

Rev. Susan Samuel installed the 2004 officers. The closing devotions and In Memoriam were conducted by Shirley Johnson and Peggy Tierney from St. Andrew's, Wyoming WMS. Rev. Samuel closed the meeting with the benediction.

The executive of the **Vancouver Island** Presbyterial was installed at the annual meeting held in Knox Church, Victoria, British Columbia. Synodical President Barbara Marshall installed president Anna Davidson, secretary Martha Anderson and Phillip Judd as the treasurer. Phillip is the first man to be a Vancouver Island executive member.

Speaker for this meeting was Peggy Palmer who is involved with the Girls Alternative Program. Schooling, counseling and encouragement are provided for 32 girls, grades 9-12, who are pregnant, caring for their babies or have other special needs.

On May 10 the **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial took a bus trip to Toronto in

the place of a spring rally. Participants visited the national museum in the morning. Later they took part in a 19th century communion service in St. John's sanctuary, conducted by Dr. John A. Johnston. After lunch at church offices, archivists Kim Arnold and Bob Anger gave a tour of the archives. A visit to The Book Room rounded out the trip. Members expressed appreciation for the staff at church offices and volunteers at the museum.

On May 12 Hamilton Presbyterial also visited the museum, Book Room and archives.

Winnipeg Presbyterial held their annual meeting at Calvin Church. The theme for the meeting was *Pray Without Ceasing*. WMS President Joanne Instance was the speaker. Joanne showed slides from pictures that she had taken while in India, as well as with the Fellowship of the Least Coin. She explained some of the problems that have arisen in India and asked us to keep the people of this region in our prayers. Joanne gave a challenge to all WMS groups in Canada to help support a child's schooling at the Jobat Mission School in India.

Local

On April 25, Mission Sunday was held in **Fairview Church, Vancouver**. WMS took this opportunity to publicize, with a talk by Nancy Carroll; a special section in the bulletin by Margaret Walker; and the presentation of WMS pins and certificates to two faithful members, Ann Brozensky, and Susan Trapp by Gladys Hepburn. These members are always willing to do the "Martha" thing. This WMS group is blessed to have "working" members in His service.

Knox Church, Morrisburg, Ontario, held Mission Awareness Sunday, on April 25. Everyone was greeted by Margherita Baker and Beatrice Shaver. The service, conducted by WMS members, opened with a hymn assisted by organist Gary Postma.

President Margaret Reynolds led the service with a responsive call to worship followed by the prayer of approach by Ruth Kirkwood.

For the "Mission Moment" Marg Reynolds spoke about several outreach projects our mission group was involved in.

The offering was received by Myrtle Wingeat and Johanna de Moor. After the doxology, the offering dedication was read by Stella Smith. A life membership certificate was presented to Johanna for her loyal dedication to the WMS.

Knox choir ministered to the congregation through their music by singing an anthem. The responsive reading was Psalm 145:1-13. Scripture lessons were read by Earl Wood and Joan Farlinger. The sermon *Whom Shall I Send* was

delivered by Catherine Scott. Grace Dikland read the prayer of thanksgiving and intercession. The closing hymn was followed by the commissioning and the choral benediction.

December 3, 2003 our WMS group of **Westminster Church, Estevan, Saskatchewan,** presented a life membership pin to our oldest member, Esther Cook. She was 93 on September 17 and has been a faithful WMS member for over 50 years. She attended the church as a child in the 1920s and still attends regularly.

Mission Affiliation Service for Christian Girls in Training took place at **Westminster Church, Ottawa** on February 26. Mary Nicol of Smith Falls, a retired missionary nurse from India, was the guest speaker. The girls really enjoyed her speech and pictures.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

At the Associated Church Press (ACP) convention in April, I attended a couple of workshops on marketing. Although the workshops dealt mainly with direct marketing, I came away with a few ideas for promoting the magazine. At the Canadian Church Press convention, there was a workshop with circulation managers of various denominational publications. One suggestion I heard from both conventions was to follow-up on subscribers who canceled the year before to find out if they would like to subscribe again to the magazine. This idea is worth considering for the Glad Tidings magazine as we look at ways to increase our subscriptions.

Kevin Shanley, consultant for the religious press in the USA, who led the workshop at the ACP, stated that the subscription renewals are the most important area of the magazine. One example of marketing for renewals is to focus on what a person will miss if they do not subscribe.

Kevin also stated that if a reader likes the publication, then they will not mind paying the subscription fee. In 2005 the subscription price for the Glad Tidings will increase to $12.00.

In the fall we begin to promote the magazine and collect for subscriptions. Please notify Glad Tidings secretary/ contact persons for your congregation of any subscription changes by mid-July.

photo: Paul Jeffrey, ACT

In the past year political turmoil, drought and floods have battered Haiti, already the poorest country in the Americas. PWS&D has been there, helping provide food, medical support and shelter.

Help give hope to people in Haiti. Please give generously to PWS&D.

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Caven, Bolton, ON
(in her 103rd year)

Marguerite Krauter
Melville, Brussels, ON

Matteke Vanderbrug
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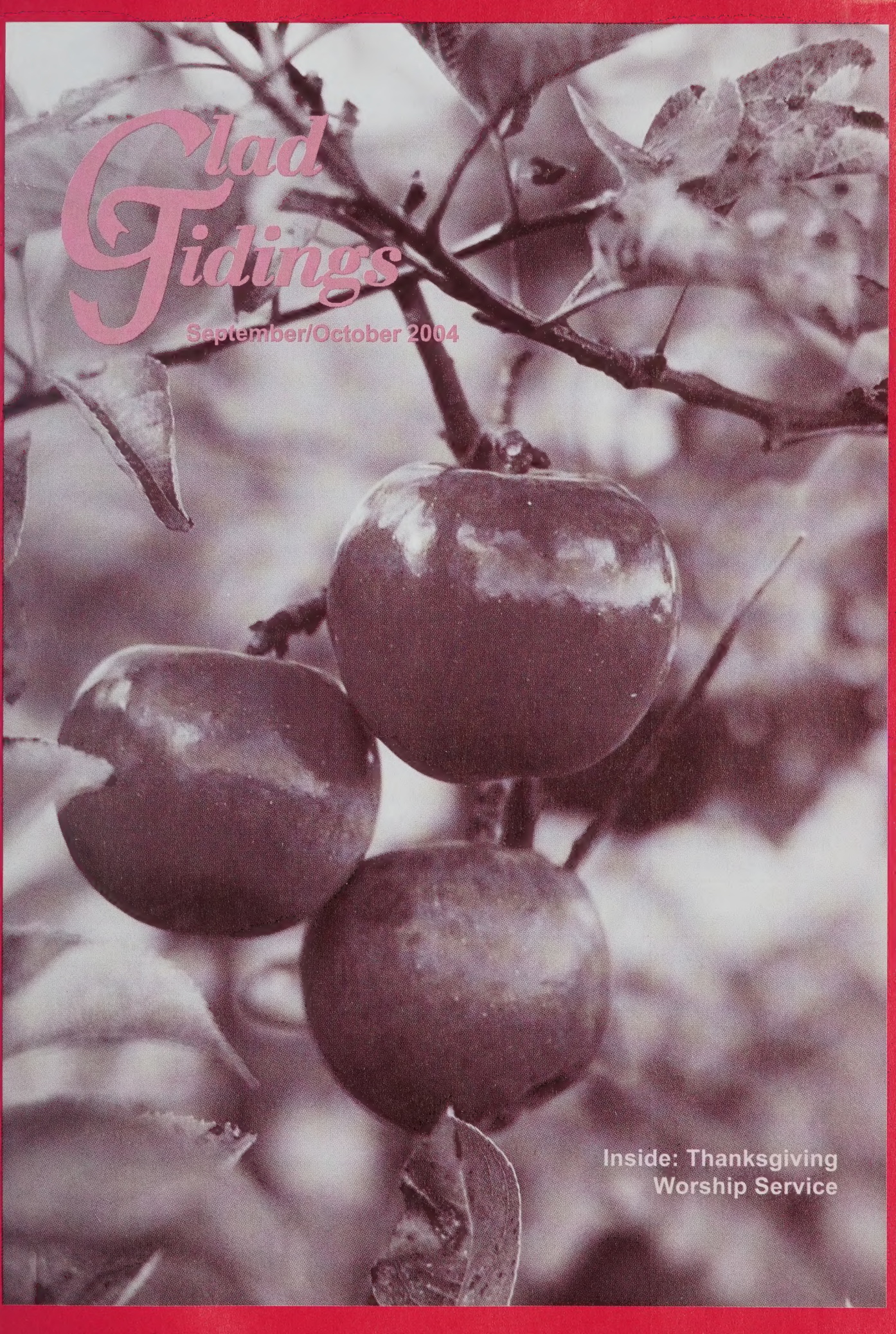
Glad Tidings
September/October 2004
Inside: Thanksgiving Worship Service

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Holly Wilson

Editor's Thoughts

Autumn signifies change, and, for me, has always held an air of excitement. Perhaps this stems simply from the days when I would return to school in September to new classes, new teachers and the possibility of new friends. Or, more profoundly, maybe this feeling of excitement comes from the knowledge that life itself is always changing. We know that we cannot control this; and for some people this is frightening, but for others it can be exhilarating to wonder what the future will hold.

Glad Tidings, as I am sure you have noticed, has undergone some changes. I became Editor in May, and since then I have been most grateful to everyone who has been welcoming and kind. I am also indebted to *Glad Tidings* past Editor L. June Stevenson. It really was such a privilege to work with June even if only for a short time (see "June's Retirement Party" on page 15).

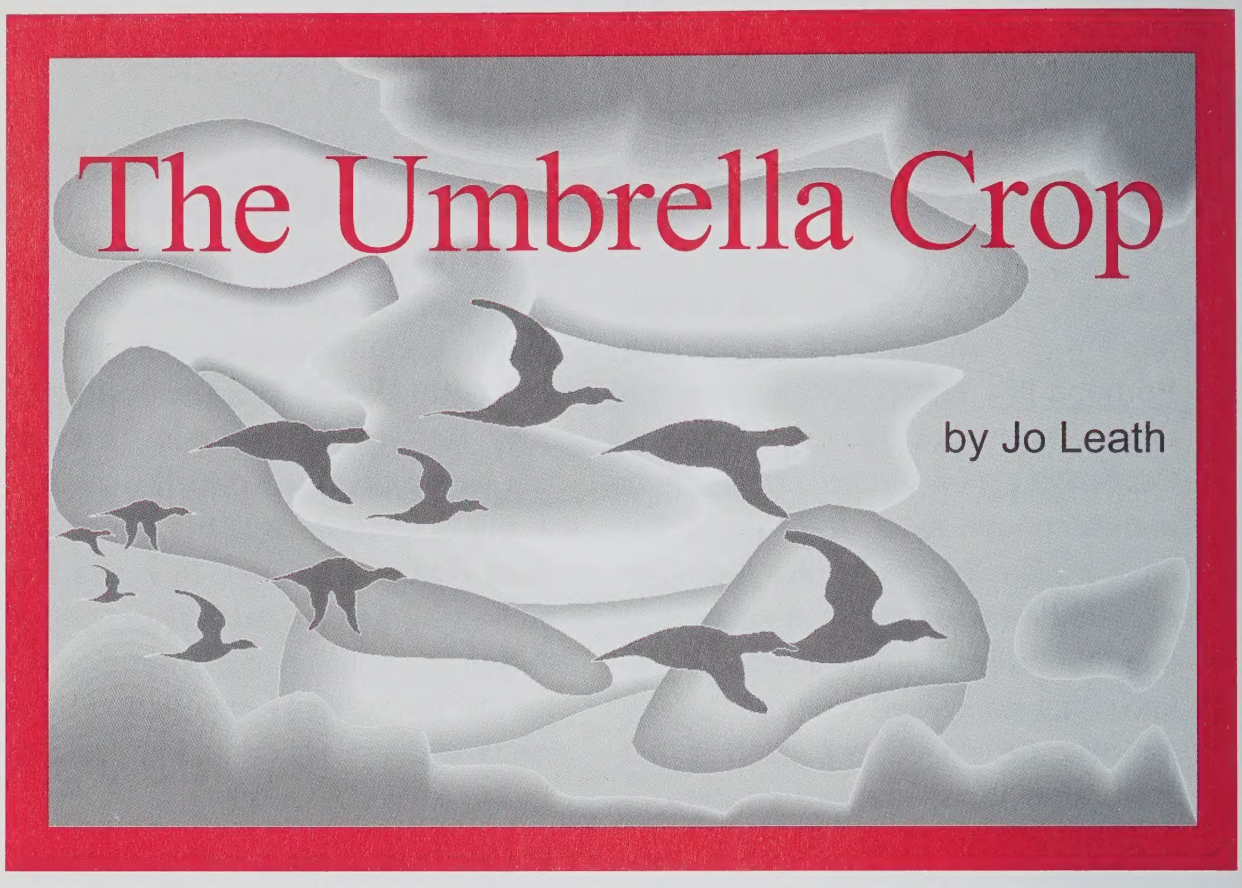
I have also had the privilege to spend time with some other WMS members that have already made quite an impression on me. On June 8th I attended General Assembly, and I will never forget when WMS Past President Joanne Instance proudly held up a copy of *Certain Women Amazed Us* (see "WMS Creates a Buzz" page 17).

In addition, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to and ensures that *Glad Tidings* is a continued success; I truly believe this to be an important endeavor. In particular, I would like to thank volunteers Lorna Teare and Jean Rankine for their help with the audio version of *Glad Tidings*, and Al Wilson for volunteering as proofreader for this issue. Thank you especially to the WMS for giving me this opportunity; it really is such an honour.

To all the faithful readers of *Glad Tidings*, may this autumn hold for you much wonder and excitement. I will conclude by quoting relevant words from the first *Glad Tidings* Editor (1925-1935) Mamie Fraser:

> "It is a great post to which you have called me, one fraught with tremendous opportunities—and responsibilities so heavy that I could not face them were it not that I believe that the prayer of one is the prayer of many: That the work of my hand may be censored by God Himself."

The Umbrella Crop



by Jo Leath

Unexpectedness, like beauty, is often in the eye of the beholder. That which arrives without forewarning may be an indication of something profoundly important, and if predicted, the visitations would have been unnecessary.

It was in October that I saw the visitors in the field.

I had had a productive season. Without the structure of a nine-to-five life, I had been living a dawn to dusk busyness; gathering and preparing eggs for sale; and tomatoes for canning and juicing; and squash for cooking and freezing.

Concomitant with that work is the constant need for dish-washing and guano shoveling and re-distribution of kitchen waste to compost heaps and chicken runs.

In mid-October, paid work had taken me to an unpaved road far outside my usual range and I was only marginally aware of the world around me as I drove with a government-duty focus, my eyes never far from the laptop computer on the passenger seat.

Then, as I passed a post-harvest cornfield, I saw the black hooks against the horizon.

Acres of moving walking sticks, gliding and sliding among the basket-white spokes of the cut corn, only the hooks remaining constant, the black stems blinking in the strobe effect of movement among foot-high stubble.

Had I been more attuned to the season and geography, perhaps I would have expected them. As it was, I was distracted and disconnected and had not anticipated the presence of a flock of Canada geese.

My discovery of them was a revelation, and an admonition to maintain my

orientation as a part of the cycle of nature and migration and the living planet.

A week afterwards the sun overflowed. The source of light and warmth and life in this dark arm of our home galaxy suddenly sent a solar wind, carrying an energy cascade to collide with the earth's fragile envelope.

I had heard the weather forecasts, and I had seen the NASA press releases and the television news. And I had not been prepared, I had not expected what was to come.

I witnessed a sky of special visual effects which cannot be verbally described. The bowl of the heavens brimmed with cosmic pyrotechnics and other clichés.

I could not have imagined a great aurora rosette gift-wrapping the hemisphere, there is no vocabulary for a night-rainbow, linking east to west at maximum altitude, in the colours of mysticism which delivered messages to pre-civilized peoples, seers and poets and prophets.

The events of the autumn have commanded that I pause.

I feel I have been forgiven, and asked only to pay more attention, that I take note of the universe which sustains me, and listen to the Earth, and to the voice of Spirit.

Matthew 6: 28-30
Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? KJV

WMS President Margaret McGillivray

Born and raised in Dundas, Ontario, Margaret was baptized, and (later!) married to Norman McGillivray at Knox Church, Dundas.

Margaret was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in May 2004 by Sarah Dunning WMS group at Knox Church, Dundas. Her first mission exposure was through a Mission Bank in Sunday school, Mission Band, Explorers and Canadian Girls in Training.

In November 2001, Margaret and her husband moved to Goderich, Ontario where they presently are members of Knox Church, Goderich. Margaret sings in the Chancel Choir, is Secretary of the Mission Outreach Committee and is a member of the Arthur Circle Evening WMS and the Knox Goderich Afternoon WMS.

Her many accomplishments include:

- Nine years as Afternoon Department Secretary, Hamilton Presbyterial
- Three years on Justice Ministries Committee
- 1992-1997 member of WMS Council
- Worked diligently on the five-year plan "Threatened with Resurrection"
- 1998-2001 Secretary of Ewart Lay Ministry Committee
- 2002-2004 Vice President of WMS Council
- Meals on Wheels for 30 years
- Knox Dundas Senior Choir for many years
- Twelve year volunteer with Inasmuch Women's Shelter in Hamilton

In addition, Margaret enjoys reading, gardening, swimming, and crafts. The WMS is very fortunate to have Margaret as president.

I smiled at the middle aged woman seated on the bed in front of me. The volunteer who had brought her to the medical ward told me that Mrs.Veroot spoke little English. Her mother tongue was Dutch, which I didn't speak or understand. Yes, I thought, this is going to be difficult. Still I was sure that somehow we'd both manage to make our needs known.

"Hello," I said. I pointed to myself. "I'm your nurse and I have to do your admission."

Mrs.Veroot beamed and nodded. "So sorry, so sorry, English no so good."

Another Way to Communicate

by Victoria Stirling

"That's okay," I said. "Someway we'll manage this."

I patted her arm and pointed to the scales, where I wanted her to stand. She stood up and did as I requested. Well, I thought, that was easy enough.

This patient was on this ward for an assessment of an ophthalmology condition. I noticed that she frequently rubbed her right eye, which looked reddened and sore.

I pointed to her eye, and grimaced. "Your eye, it pains you?" She frowned, and shook her head. I had no idea if she had understood what I had been trying to convey by my facial contortions. Nevertheless, she was my patient, and I knew that I would have to proceed the best way I could to get all of her admission information documented.

"So sorry...So sorry," she said, hanging her head down. "Is no goot. No goot!"

"It's alright." I gently patted her arm. She peered at me. "Is alright?" I nodded.

She rubbed at her eye again, and I certainly did not need her to tell me that it hurt. The drawn expression that passed across her face whenever she touched it was enough.

With a lot of mime, and a great deal of nodding and shaking of both of our heads, I finally had all of the paperwork completed. As I left her room, I wondered how the doctor from the eye service was going to do his admission. I thought it best to forewarn him of the language problem. I relayed this information to him and he thanked me.

A few days later, the specialist approached the nurses' station. "Do you have Mrs.Veroot today as a patient?" he asked.

I nodded. "Yes, as a matter of fact I do."

"Do you speak Dutch?"

I shook my head. "No, I'm sorry I don't."

"That's too bad."

"Yes," I said, "it would have made communicating with her a lot easier, but we've been managing up to now, without verbally saying very much."

"Well, that's fine then," he said. "Perhaps, you could go in right now and see her. She's very upset about her diagnosis."

"What did her test show?" I asked.

He pursed his lips together before answering. "They were not good. This lady is going to have to have that right eye of hers removed, and it needs to be done soon." I could only imagine how this woman must have been feeling, knowing how I would react to such news myself. I stood up. "I'll go in at once."

When I walked into her room everything about her posture indicated someone in a great deal of distress. Mrs.Veroot sat slumped in the middle of the bed sobbing, and rocking backward and forward. I walked over to her and placed my arm around her shoulders. She looked at me with her tear stained face and gave a deep heart wrenching sigh.

I wanted to let her know that I empathized with her, and I wanted to be able to tell her in some other way other than just hand signals and a few odd words of English. The problem was how to do that. Then I spotted her Bible on her bedside table. Although it was printed in Dutch I picked it up.

"Then I spotted her Bible on her bedside table."

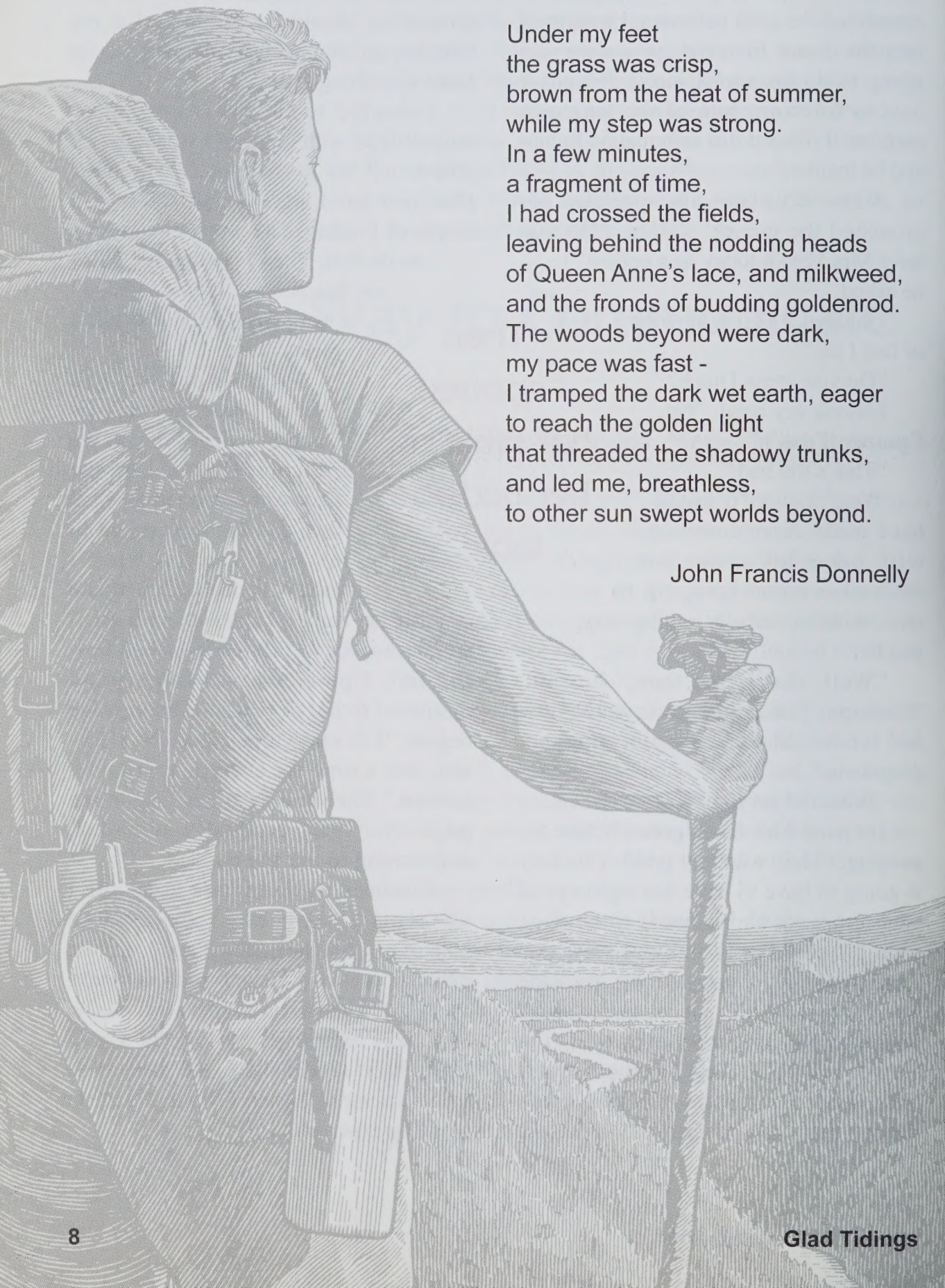
Mrs.Veroot watched me as I leafed through the pages. I finally found the section I wanted. In the book of Ecclesiastes, there is a passage that has given me much comfort when I needed it. I hoped that it would ease some of my patient's grief, and let her know that I understood how she felt. I pointed to Chapter 3 and motioned to her to read it. The passage begins "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." She sat quietly looking at the page. Her tears gradually subsided, and turning to me she nodded.

I inclined my head back at her. As I was about to leave, Mrs.Veroot grabbed hold of me. She hugged me and for a few minutes we stood locked in an embrace. We had not uttered a single word during this short exchange, but by the use of God's holy word I had found the way to communicate with her. For me it was an uplifting experience.

Hike

Under my feet
the grass was crisp,
brown from the heat of summer,
while my step was strong.
In a few minutes,
a fragment of time,
I had crossed the fields,
leaving behind the nodding heads
of Queen Anne's lace, and milkweed,
and the fronds of budding goldenrod.
The woods beyond were dark,
my pace was fast -
I tramped the dark wet earth, eager
to reach the golden light
that threaded the shadowy trunks,
and led me, breathless,
to other sun swept worlds beyond.

John Francis Donnelly



Was He An Angel?

Florence and Edgar, an elderly couple, were members of the village church I pastored 1965-68. While visiting their home one afternoon, Florence told me a most interesting story.

There was a day in the depression years when Florence was busy with her sewing when she heard the voice of her young daughter, "Well my mother will feed you."

Shortly thereafter, Florence answered to a knock on the side door. A middle-aged, somewhat disabled man using a crutch stood on her doorstep. He said he was hungry, that he had been to every well-to-do home on the block behind her house, but no one would feed him.

Florence compassionately said, "Well, I haven't much but you're welcome to what there is." She then made him a cup of tea and gave him a cheese sandwich - all the food there was in the house. It was information the man seemed to already know. He also did not seem surprised when she said her husband was even then out looking for work. And he was most grateful for her hospitality.

When he finished eating, the man took his crutch and unsteadily hobbled to the door. He paused there and said, "I can promise you that from this day you and your family will never be in want."

Slowly and awkwardly, the man stepped outside. Florence followed a moment later. She wanted to see how the crippled man was getting along. He was nowhere in sight. Florence circled the house and didn't find him. There were large vacant lots on each side of her home so she could see for some distance. The man had disappeared.

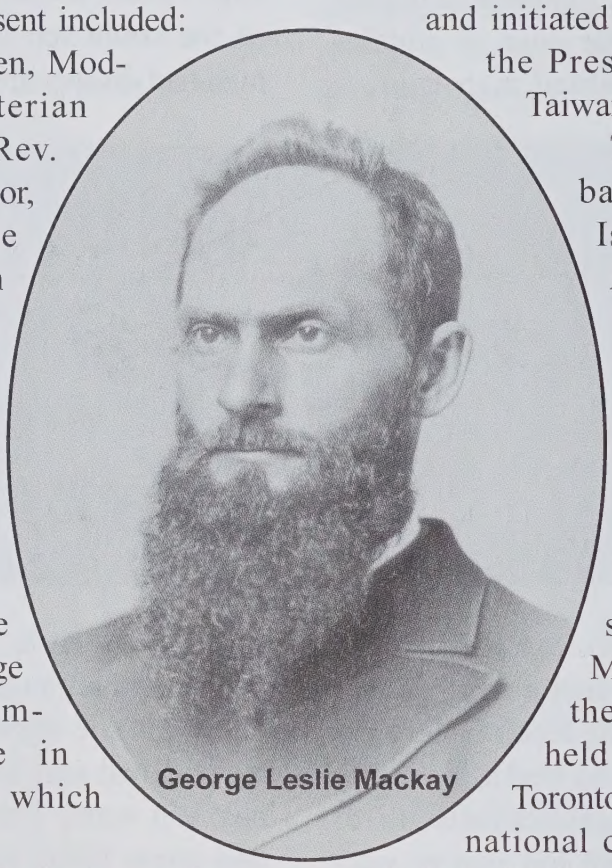
I suggested to Florence that she had entertained an angel. She said she didn't know, but she often wondered about what the man had said, for the family was never again in want. That very evening Edgar had come home with an armful of groceries and the news that he had a job. He had been given a few dollars advance in pay. Never again was he unemployed.

Rev. C.E. Burridge

"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2, NIV).

Taiwan Visits Church Offices

As Moderator, Rev. Rick Fee began, "today we are experiencing a truly historic event at Wynford Drive." Over 80 delegates, the largest mission-related contingent ever, arrived at the national church office on June 29 from Taiwan. These women and men represented various types of institutions related to our mission partnership. Those present included: Rev. Dao-Shuing Chen, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan; Rev. Der-Fu Chan, Moderator, North Synod, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and officials from Alethia University, Tam-Kang High School and the Mackay Memorial Hospital. This event was part of a celebration leading up to the unveiling of the George Leslie Mackay commemorative statue in Woodstock, Ontario which followed on June 30.



George Leslie Mackay

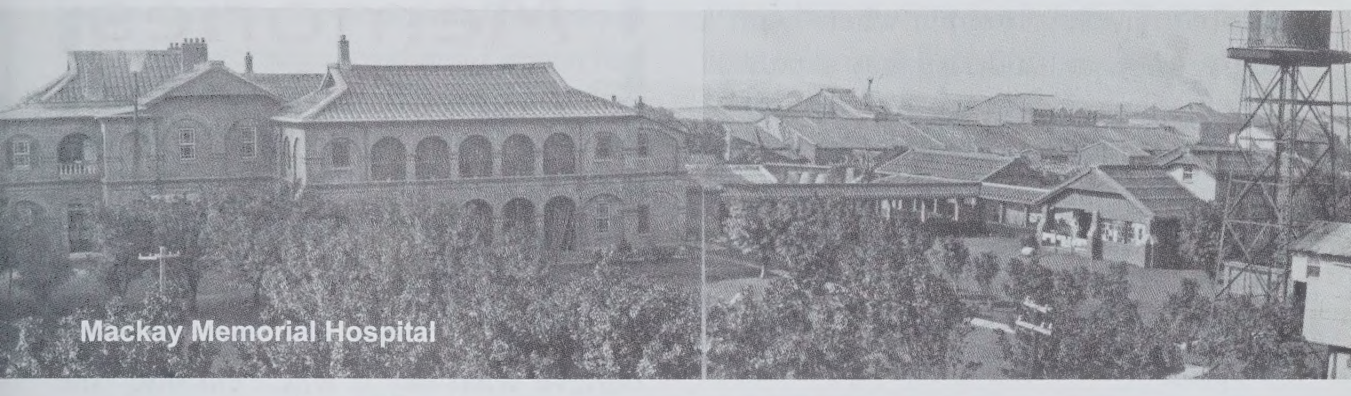
George Leslie Mackay was the first Canadian Presbyterian missionary to journey to Taiwan in 1872 on behalf of the Church. While there, he married a Taiwanese woman, Chang Tsung-ming, and together they had 3 children. He worked as a minister, trained new clergy and, out of necessity, offered his skill as an amateur dentist to the local population. Although based out of Tamsui, he ventured into the remote mountain area in order to work with the native Tayal people. The living conditions were arduous because of the climate and the sometimes unwelcome reception from villagers. Acclaimed as both a local and international hero, he also founded Mackay Memorial hospital, Tam-Kang High School, Oxford College now called Alethia University, and initiated what would become the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

Through his Toronto-based grandchildren, Isabel, Margaret and Anna Mackay, the Archives recently received a donation of 17 images of Mackay and his family dating circa 1860-1900. As a result of a major symposium that focused on Mackay's career with the Church which was held at the University of Toronto in 1997, many international contacts were established. The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives has subsequently received donations of archival materials from individuals in Canada, the United States and Taiwan amounting to hundreds of images, numerous audio visual records, and textual records relating to our Taiwan mission partnership.

Our Archives can now offer a rich resource of material to the many international scholars who come to our reading

room each year to view these documents for research purposes. Having the opportunity to visit with so many members of the Taiwan Presbyterian Church was not only a historic time but truly an honour for those of us at Wynford Drive.

Kim Arnold
Archivist/Records Administrator


Mackay Memorial Hospital

Medical/Dental Mission Jamaica

With Medical Ministries International my 24 mission trips include: 3 to Mexico, 2 to Ecuador, 1 to Belize and 18 to Jamaica. In Jamaica (February 7-21) I worked with a team of 76 people. We had long busy days 6 a.m.-10 p.m. One morning after prayers, breakfast and devotions we left camp on rough, scenic roads under sunny skies and sea breeze blown palms with 12 people and 4 tubs of medical supplies. An hour or so later we arrived at a mountain clinic where we were greeted by throngs of patient people who had come miles on foot, donkey or by car. We designated areas of work for doctors, dentists, pharmacy and triage. Quality time was given to each person in all areas. Special procedures were done, referrals given, and physiotherapy taught. Recorded statistics and records were sent to the Ministry of Health in Kingston, Jamaica.

At 4:30 p.m., tired, we enjoyed a lovely Jamaican supper at camp prepared by the excellent kitchen staff. The supper

Alice Carter with little friend.

line resonated with "How was your day?" as we reflected on our flexibility to help others, as we eased pain and spiritually lifted many in distress. So with God's love it is such a privilege to work among humble, gracious people where with a hug, a smile, or handclasp they expressed their gratitude.

I have been so blessed to have been able to share these experiences. We go to serve all God's people and return knowing God's love abides and shines in every soul. In Jamaica, on this mission trip, we saw a total of 4,677 medical/dental patients and dispensed a total of 8,316 medications.

All these mission trips have been to poor and underprivileged mountain areas with different travel and cultures. In each area the gracious people so warmly welcomed us. God's love is shared in all cultures and in all peoples.

Alice Carter is 85 years old and lives in Chilliwack, BC

If you are familiar with the television show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" you might appreciate the following. As I was driving by a church I slowed down to see what the message was on the message board for the week. Usually there is something from the gospels to inspire drivers passing by. This church however was attempting to appeal to TV viewers. The sign simply read: "Jesus. Final Answer."

One morning in October when Edith turned on the television she could not believe what day it was. "Oh my," she thought. "Two more weeks and I will be 100 years old! Where has the time gone?" Being the eldest, Edith never imagined that she would outlive her four siblings; and while Edith never suffered like her siblings, she had experienced some trials of her own.

When Edith turned 80 and was asked about her age she kept saying, "Of course at my age my health will only get worse. I cannot expect to live forever." She never expected that she would be blessed with such a long life. She often wondered why she was still alive, and almost daily she found herself looking forward to an eternity of peace with God. But deep within, she sensed that her time had not yet come.

While growing up, Edith considered the hardships she experienced as learning curves. She lived through the War and the Great Depression. These tough times built Edith's strong character.

At 99, Edith needed a full time caregiver to help her with daily tasks. Having a fear of nursing homes, she took the

advice of her doctor and opted to live with her daughter, Joan, even though she was often insensitive and ignored Edith's needs.

Edith's thoughts, however, turned to Joan's daughter Deanna, her first grandchild. She secretly considered Deanna her favourite. Whenever she needed something Deanna had always been there for her; for example, she had supported Edith during cataract surgery. Edith remembered fondly the shopping trips they used to take followed by pleasant lunches or early dinners at the mall. A strong bond was formed between Edith and Deanna. Little did they know that this bond would be tested by a twist of fate.

Deanna was born with a brain tumour that led to a seizure condition. She overcame an intellectual handicap associated with these seizures, and at nineteen she was ready for a life of her own. Despite this accomplishment, however, her mother, Joan, was still pessimistic about Deanna's future. Joan wanted to put Deanna in an institution. She had often told the family, "Deanna will never amount to anything. She's a slow learner and needs someone to care for her."

At first these comments angered Deanna, but she didn't let her mother's negativity get to her. Through the encouragement of an English teacher she took up writing, and with renewed emotional strength Deanna became estranged from her mother and went to live on her own.

Deanna relocated to London, Ontario where she found God. Allowing Him to come into her heart, her stress was replaced with peace. Deanna remembered her grandmother saying "someday you will find peace through God if you learn to be patient. Always remember God's blessings are on His timetable not yours."

Moving was like therapy for Deanna, allowing healing to begin. But this move filled her mother with hate. Spitefully, Joan gossiped about her daughter to the rest of the family and forbade Deanna to write or visit Edith, in an attempt to break up their loving relationship. Fortunately she was unsuccessful; God had other plans.

Suddenly Edith's train of thought was broken by a loud knock on her bedroom door. "Mom you have a letter. Who would be writing you?" her daughter Joan interrupted. Joan placed an envelope on the bedside table that was typewritten with no return address. "I don't know" Edith said, but her heart swelled hopefully. "Could it be?" Although she felt tired, Edith could not sleep until she had read the letter.

After Joan left the room Edith read, "Grandma, I found direction in London. My new Christian family encouraged me to become a Christian. They send me cards without needing special occasions. They take me out for coffee; this is our family time. Thanks for caring Grandma. Love, Deanna."

Before going to sleep that night Edith answered Deanna's letter. "Deanna I am so happy about your new family. You have learned the art of patience and letting go. Deanna please come and see me soon. I am looking forward to your visit. Love, Grandma."

Sadly, Edith never saw Deanna again, for just before dawn Edith died peacefully in her sleep. Her earthly journey was over.

Newly Retired

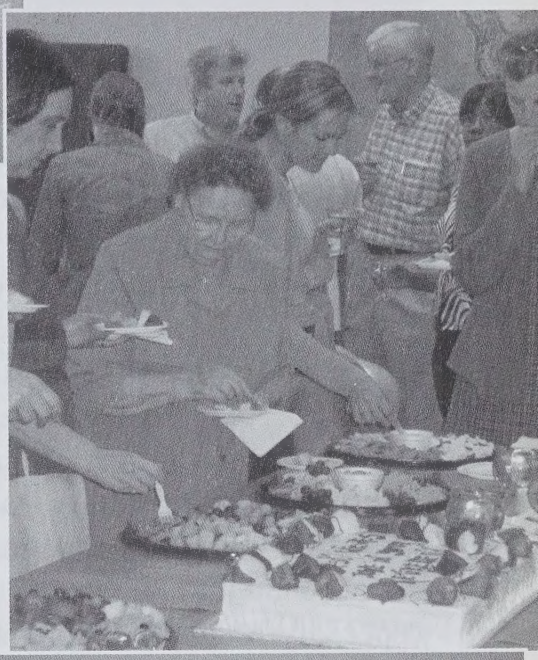
I stroll about the garden,
breathe in the moistened earth;
Deep primal instincts stir within,
I, kneeling, trace my pattern in the soil;
Imprinting, impressing what is mine,
so long neglected like a lover back from war,
reclaim, recall each tender shoot,
each fragile bud, each splendid bloom.
I tend this earthly patch, and caring, feed my soul.
My body shifts to patterns, new and unfamiliar,
yet archetypal, deeply sensed,
seeking out the rhythm of these days,
configuring new personas for newly retired greying women.
Anticipating a glorious revolution of time and place
I float, I rise, in helium rush
all fetters slip away,
apart from morning's traffic buzz;
the clock whose hands once measured, marched,
now spin lamely out of sync with life,
toy soldiers toppling in domino effect
towards non appointed times, non meetings, non expected tasks.
And once significant decisions ruled on their own insignificance,
are judged irrelevant, dismissed and tucked away in memory's chest.

L. June Stevenson

June sends her heartfelt thanks to all those WMS members and friends from across the country that sent retirement greetings and good wishes. She is still reading the many kind thoughts and already doing some creative writing.

Left to right: Margaret Read, Jean Rankine, June Stevenson and Lorna Teare

Florence Ross, one of Glad Tidings proofreaders



June's Family. Left to right: Lawrence (son), Charleigh Mae (grandaughter), Chris (son-in-law) and Laura (daughter)

Terry Nicholls, Tern Graphics and June Stevenson

Homespun Verses

by Hanna Czuma

Gladys is ninety-five, the age when people are well past their working days and most have given up on active life. Not Gladys. A writer of many years, she still spins verses, interspersed by short stories and articles, and gets her work published. As if this was not enough (and Gladys doesn't think it is), she plays the piano in a nursing home, leads "the old folks" in singing, and helps in her church's Sunday school. Gladys is not especially healthy or strong and she did not have an easy life. Her husband passed away, she lost a daughter to cancer and she is not a stranger to financial hardships. Still, her cheerful disposition has remained unscathed, and her bright smile lightens up the room when she walks in.

Her friends marvel at her vitality, asking: "What makes her the way she is? Why is she not bent down by old age and life's cares?" Then, one day, she gave several of us a book of her latest poems entitled "Homespun Verses" and there, for me, was the answer:

Gladys is a poet who sets her vision on God.

Her spirit delights in soaring into the sky, but does not miss the wonder of creation on earth and she finds beauty in the ordinary, mundane things of everyday life. It is the spirit which comes from her innermost self and finds expression for her feelings and thoughts. The verses have touched me because they spoke for me too. They helped me to re-discover my own deeper self and say what is in my heart.

We all carry within us a vibrant spirit. It lives in our ideas, hopes and dreams, but too often the rousing of the spirit remains hushed-up, locked in. The motto of our times seems to be: Keep your body in shape; keep your intellect active. We jog, run, swim and do aerobics. We take classes and join book clubs. We try diet fads and we want to look our best with the help of cosmetics. Oh, to be young as long as possible! It is all very good, but sooner or later we discover that something is missing.

In our hurried, preoccupied lives, we tend to forget the spiritual part of ourselves, which should be our deepest concern, because its well-being greatly influences every day of our lives.

Writer Robertson Davies, in a convocation address to one of the universities gave this advice to graduating students: "Get yourself a good anthology of poetry and keep it by your bed. Read a little before you go to sleep. Read a little if

you wake up before the alarm goes off. When you idle during the day...let your mind dwell on what you have read."

At the end of his talk, Davies noticed doubt on the faces of his listeners - many of them students of science and engineering. "My dear friends," he said.

"Science can do many wonderful things, but it cannot comfort the afflicted, or ease a heavy heart, or give expression to the topmost joy which life is capable of. This is what poetry can do."

Children are natural poets, story tellers and artists. Their minds are filled with fantasy. Being new on this planet, they still have not lost contact with the heavens, like we tend to lose. But we too can feel the stirring of the spirit at the first sign of spring, or the sight of a sunrise or sunset. We too marvel at the intricacy of fragile little sea shells. Nature can envelope us with its peaceful, meditative mood. But we need time to come out from our busy schedule and to let ourselves "just be." We cannot all be Shakespeare's but we can release in ourselves the spirit which begs to be free. With it, we can see the imperceptible and, if we are very quiet, to hear the voice of God.

Rich spiritual life can perform miracles no diets, exercises or learning can;

it keeps us young and allows us to maintain our vitality no matter what age, no matter what. Remember our dear Gladys who lives this example.

WMS Creates a Buzz at Assembly

When it came time for the Women's Missionary Society to present its report to the General Assembly on June 8 it was not business as usual. Past President Joanne Instance was stunned when several men lined up at the microphone to have their say about the requested name change from the Women's Missionary Society, Western Division (WMS WD) to simply the Women's Missionary Society (WMS). Clearly many of the speakers did not understand that the proposed name change was due to a discrepancy in finances that required clarification. Some speakers saw it as an opportunity to express their opinions about the fact that the Women's Missionary Society as a name excludes men. In a proud moment Joanne raised her copy of *Certain Women Amazed Us* and declared: "Perhaps if you read our history you would understand that the WMS has never excluded men." Indeed a few men who are WMS members came up to the microphone to confirm this.

Although the General Assembly was not the time to discuss a proposed name change for the WMS there was an impromptu discussion when the meeting adjourned between WMS executive members and staff. The general consensus was that the WMS is unwilling to relinquish its name, feeling that this might jeopardize the identity of the WMS and the memory of the dedicated women who founded this organization. Executive Director Sarah Kim commented: "It was never our intention to exclude men but what's wrong with celebrating our differences?" WMS President Margaret McGillivray added, "Whoever would have thought that two letters could cause such excitement?"

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

THE ENVIRONMENT AS A HUMAN SECURITY ISSUE

Air pollution, deforestation and erosion of the soil are all ways in which the environment is abused. Climate change and environmental crises will result in severe social and economic problems for many people all over the world. This violation of the environment poses a serious threat to human security, for the survival of humankind is linked closely to the preservation of the natural world.

On December 10, 2002, the Canadian Government ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), in cooperation with KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative), the World Council of Churches and a number of environmental organizations, has supported the Kyoto initiative, since the continuing process of degradation of the environment has caused hardship and suffering to many people. In doing so, our church challenges and encourages governments at all levels, corporations and individuals, not only to meet the agreed upon Kyoto targets, but to surpass them.

As Christians, we hold that our God created a beautiful world for all his people and, thus, it is our duty to resist the indifference of so many to the problems created by pollution, contamination and over-consumption. We should become more aware of the worldwide consequences of environmental degradation. As faithful stewards of God's creation, we are obligated to play an active role in containing and diminishing these numerous environmental problems. **It is Time for Justice!** We must do whatever we can to preserve our planet and provide environmental security for all its inhabitants.

Text: Dineke Kraay

Editing & Design: Gail Turner

Bible Foods and Beverages

by Rosalie Sugrue

The boy shared his lunch of five ___ loaves (Jn 6:9) B _ _ _ _ _

Birds eaten in the wilderness (Ex 16:13) _ _ _ I _

Passover bread was eaten with bitter ___ (Num 9:11) _ _ _ B _

Jael welcomed the enemy with ___ (Judg 4:19) _ _ L _

Jesus turned water into ___ (Jn 2:9) _ _ _ E

Jesus cooked a breakfast of ___ (Jn 21:9) F _ _ _

Joseph's brothers went to Egypt for ___ (Gen 42:19 KJV) _ O _ _

John the Baptist ate ___ (Mt 3:4) _ O _ _ _ _ _

Aaron's staff sprouted ___ (Num 17:8) _ _ _ _ _ D _

Jacob sent pistachio ___ to Joseph (Gen 43:11) _ _ _ S

'Comfort me with ___' (Song 2:5 KJV) A _ _ _ _ _

Samson made a riddle about ___ (Judg 14:9-14) _ _ N _ _

Passover meal included unleavened ___ (Mk 14:1) _ _ _ _ D

Vegetables given to David's troops included ___ (2Sam 17:28) B _ _ _ _

Young David took his brothers ten ___ (1Sam 17:18) _ _ E _ _ _ _

The Mount of ___ is near Jerusalem (Mt 21:1) _ _ _ V _ _

Jesus asked a woman for a drink of ___ (Jn 4:7) _ _ _ E _

Jesus talked about a ___ seed (Mt 13:31) _ _ _ _ _ R _

Ruth gleaned barley and ___ (Ruth 2:23) _ _ _ A _

Esau swapped his birthright for __ (Gen 25:34 KJV) _ _ _ _ _ G _

A father would not give a scorpion for an ___ (Lk 11:12) E _ _

Abigail took 100 clusters of ___ (1Sam 25:18) _ _ _ _ _ _ S

Answers on page 31

Rediscovering the Bible on the Fiction Rack

by Roberta G. McClelland

I am a reader at heart. One of the greatest and most satisfying indulgences I know is to curl up with a good book, and to let myself sink page by page into the rich layers of a vivid well written plot. I love the experience of getting to know a book's characters intimately...of growing close to them, of celebrating their victories and crying with them through their sorrows. Through the pages of a good book each character's story becomes real to me, it becomes my own, and that's why biblical fiction has taken up such a prominent place on my own reading shelf.

Biblical fiction is a literary trend that is rapidly growing in popularity. In this genre a character, or an event is taken directly from the Bible and a fictional story is built around the information that the Bible provides on that character or that event.

For example, in Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent* readers are drawn into the nomadic camp of Jacob through the eyes of his only daughter Dinah. Through Dinah's narrative, readers witness the tension between Jacob's four wives; the struggle between two religions - one ancient, sensual, and inhabited by many gods and the other new, strange, and inhabited by one God and proclaimed by one man; and the violence and the passion of a turbulent, changing land. Although Dinah is barely mentioned in the Bible, Diamant uses her to help readers to see the life of Jacob and his family in a new way, from the perspective of someone who is rooted in both faiths and who sees Jacob in his strongest and his weakest moments equally. The journey that Diamant's Jacob follows is the same as that of the biblical Jacob, but the experience of that journey that Diamant translates to readers through Dinah is much more earthy - grounded in the grit and the heat of the desert and in the tenuous cycle of animal and human life.

In Marek Halter's *Sarah* readers enter Sarai's opulent world of servants, lush gardens, and elaborate Babylonian temples, and her irrevocable love for the rebellious nomadic Abram. We see her life altering choice to refuse any other marriage and to follow Abram across the desert, through the powerful kingdom of the Pharaoh, and into the land of Canaan. The agony of her barrenness, the all too real humanity and weakness of Abram, and the doubts of Abram's tribe about his mysterious God and about his leadership reverberate like a hammer within readers, and

transform the biblical journey of Abraham and Sarah into a fiercely human and deeply memorable experience.

But these are just the very tip of a wonderful new iceberg. The rack goes on to hold many other possibilities...*In the Shadow of the Ark* (by: Anne Provoost) tells the story of the building and the journey of the Ark from the viewpoint of one of the builder's daughters. *Mary Called Magdalene* (by: Margaret George) gives a powerful account of the life of Mary Magdalene before and after her encounter with Christ. *And Testament* (by: Nino Ricci) creates an intensely personal picture of the man called Jesus at the time of John the Baptist and Herod.

The Bible is, and always will be, the greatest book in history. But biblical fiction can take the experience of reading the Bible one powerful step further by making the encounter personal, and tangible, and by leaving the reader with the inescapable sense that he/she has actually been there and walked, cried, laughed, and prayed with the characters of the Bible during some of the most profound events of early Christian history.

To have the characters of the Bible come alive with such humanity, detail, and imagery through the pages of these books is to come to know them, their experiences with God, and their epic journeys much more personally, and it is to infuse a greater dimension of appreciation into our own study of the Old and New Testaments.

On a scale of one to ten biblical fiction is, by far, a twenty and in this writer's experience, well worth any Christian reader's time!

An Adaptation of Psalm 23

Because the Lord is my higher power, my caregiver, taking care of my own needs has become a priority in my life.

I am able to find rest and peace because I know I am powerless over the actions, thoughts and feelings of other people. Quiet streams of meditation and prayer provide tranquility for my soul.

He restores my sanity!

Yes, even though I walk through the valley of uncertainty, insecurity and fear, I will not be afraid of examining myself because He is with me.

When I seek His will for my life and ask for the power to carry that out I am rewarded with serenity.

He helps me retain my own power and dignity in the presence of those who are able to trouble me.

He has given me wisdom and my cup of blessings is full and overflowing.

I have been spiritually awakened and will continue to grow as a person of integrity and respect for myself and other people as long as I live.

Angela

Overflowing with Thankfulness Thanksgiving Worship 2004

by Darlene Lajeunesse

Preparation:

• Have each person, as they come in take several slips of paper, which have been prepared with this sentence on each: My overflowing thankfulness is for: _____.

Participants are to write one thing in the blank space for which they can be truly thankful. Later in the worship service the leader will take out the slips of paper and read what is written on them.

• Decoratively display a banner saying, Colossians 2:6-7 *'Overflowing With Thankulness'*

• If possible have everyone sit in a circle for the duration of the service. It is a divine call to be truly thankful for the diversity of people within the church who join hands in a circle of love and friendship.

Theme: Our lives are to be a celebration of thanks everyday, because God has designed us to live an enthusiastic life overflowing with thankfulness.

Call to Worship

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6-7, NIV

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Hymn #304: "We praise you, Creator"

Psalm 100, NIV

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
People: Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Leader: Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
People: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
People: Give thanks to him and praise his name.
Leader: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.
All: We celebrate your kindness and love to us in every generation.

Leader's prayer:

Creator God, we thank you because you have called us unto yourself as a holy people, created for your pleasure. We celebrate your creative plan which brought to life all things. In such a short span of time you designed a plan beyond our human comprehension, and the galaxies and universe came into being. We thank you for the wonderful life we have because of your magnificent glory which illuminates beyond the brightest star in the heavens. You are our friend, our saviour, our comforter, our healer, and in you all life lives and moves and has its being. We thank you for all you have done, and for the abundance you have freely given.

Scripture: Psalm 28:7, NIV

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to God in song.

Hymn #433: "All creatures of our God and King"

Reader 1: A long time ago before the animals roamed the land and the earth was spun into existence, God was, and God said, "Let there be…," and it was so. Out of nothing the earth became a rolling carpet of abundance filled with hills, valleys, and mountains: beauty beyond compare. "Let the land produce living creatures…," and the animals came into existence and were sustained by the abundance of the rich fertile soil God had created. The seas began to spring forth with life. God devised a plan to create a living being in his likeness to rule over all he had made. Humankind was formed out of the dust of the ground and exalted to the highest honour bestowed upon all He created; mankind became the representative of God upon the earth.

All: Thank you God of the Heaven and the earth for the abundance of life you have created. We celebrate with thanks to the one who has made us.

Prayer: God, we thank you for your hand of hope and forgiveness reaching out to us beyond the devastation which took place in the garden. The man and the woman who you created disobeyed you, and the union they enjoyed with you was broken. But, when the moment was right you sent your son Jesus and he became obedient unto His death. We thank you that you have opened the door for everyone; that through faith you might be able to make us one again. We thank you for every person who has been made one within your church.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:10-13, NIV

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Reader 2: God has given us freedom which is a wonderful gift offered to all. We have the liberty to live out our lives in overflowing celebration. We can come to God with absolute confidence that God will provide for our every need, and will continue to love us as our Heavenly Parent. May we never take for granted the wonderful privileges we enjoy in our country. We have been given all things to enjoy through Jesus, and may we never use God's gifts to dishonour God or His glorious church.

We can come to our loving Creator and ask for help in the midst of the uncertainties of life. May our hearts be freed from the cares of this world, and let us draw from God's infinite strength. We raise our voice as one, and proclaim that we are a chosen people, beloved of our God. We will celebrate and embrace the diversities of all who are joined together as one within the body of Christ at home and on the mission field. We are the family of God, and we give thanks.

Closing Hymn #338: "Let all things now living"

All: (everyone join hands in the circle)
We join hands as one in a circle of love and friendship; embracing God's creation in all corners of the world.

Scripture Benediction:
Colossians 3:14-16, NIV (while still joining hands in circle)

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Darlene is a licenced minister and a professional speaker with over fifteen years of experience. She is available for speaking engagements and motivational seminars for churches or businesses. If you desire more information about Darlene and her speaking schedule you may reach her by calling 905-939-1055 or by emailing Darlene_Lajeunesse@msn.com. Darlene lives in the Toronto area with her husband Ronald.

Reflections

Little Katelyn climbs on my lap and snuggles comfortably.
Curious eyes scan my face while tiny fingers gently trace
the lines I am trying to ignore.
"Nanny," she asks; "What are these?"

A flashback occurs.
Forgotten reflections speed past my memory.
My mirror, once my friend, now threatens my serenity.

I ask: "Mirror, do you remember
the slim, pale blond
you showed my yesteryear
Where have you hidden her?"

"What of the bride
wrapped in lace, love and dreams
Will I ever see her again?"

"You showed me the young mother
radiant with joy
at her baby's first smile.
Is she gone forever?"

"What changes were inflicted
on the face of the mother of teens.
Mirror, let's you and I forget the
worry lines drawn then."

"Just today, Mirror, I faced again
time's artwork of crow's feet and crepe.
Will this indignity go on forever?"

I can grudgingly resent - or calmly resign
to my mirror's updated reflections.
But answer Katelyn's question I must.

"They are wrinkles, darlin'
Nanas and Poppas get them."

She smiles, her love undiminished, unchanged.
So I too choose to accept the face that time has altered
and discard the dread of changes to come.

Eleanor Green

News

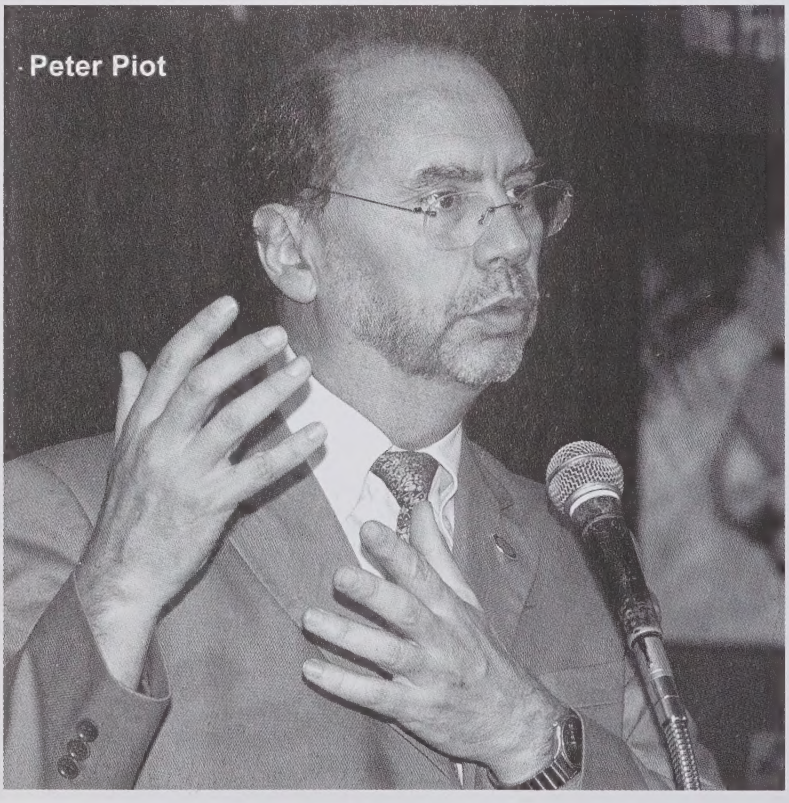
UNAIDS Chief Tells Faith Groups They Have Major Role in AIDS Fight

July 11, 2004

UNAIDS executive director, Peter Piot, told a conference of Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and Jews, that their support was crucial in the fight against the impact of HIV and AIDS.

He told hundreds gathered at an inter-faith meeting in Bangkok: "I hope for a day when every church engages in an open dialogue on issues of sexuality and gender difference.

"I hope for a day when every synagogue will mobilize as advocates for a global response to fight AIDS, when every temple will fully welcome people living with HIV, where every mosque is a place where young people will learn about the facts of HIV and AIDS.



Peter Piot

"When that will have happened I am convinced that nothing will stop our success in our fight against AIDS."

Dr. Piot's presence at the conclusion of two-days of faith meetings highlighted the crucial role that religions and their associated organizations already play, or must play, to fight AIDS and care for those affected.

Muslims, Buddhists and Christians met at separate conferences in Bangkok over two days. They then gathered at the Ambassador Hotel in the city center to share experiences, to see how they could work more effectively together and to prepare for the International Aids Conference (IAC).

For the first time the IAC is giving the faith community a major voice.

At the Ecumenical Pre-conference a highlight for many was the sharing between African and Asian delegates. With the epicenter of the epidemic shifting to Asia new networks and relationships were established that will help faith-based organizations coordinate and ramp up their efforts.

A series of workshops focused on issues, including successful interfaith AIDS programs, care for orphans and vulnerable children, churches and sexuality, and migration and HIV.

Faith-based organizations are now major players in accessing HIV and AIDS grants from the Global Fund.

Richard Feacham, executive director of the Fund, told the Christian pre-conference that FBOs and the church played three key roles at the global level.

"Firstly, in education awareness and prevention, because you reach into every community, you reach into every family, you reach into every household. Your voice is one of moral authority, your voice is trusted, your voice is heard, and therefore in matters of public awareness and prevention, I think your voice is critical."

He said Christians were also doing a massive amount of work in caring for orphans and vulnerable children, especially in Africa where the situation is now bleak.

"It is the churches which are picking up the burden of responding to the tragedy of orphans in Africa and other parts of the world," he said.

And the churches are major providers of health care.

"You run hospitals, you run clinics, you employ doctors, you employ nurses, and you deliver health care, and therefore you treat people with HIV and malaria. A lot more of that good work could be done if the finances were available," he said.

Ms. Julienne Munyaneza, Africa coordinator for the World Association of Christian Communication, said: "Faith-based organizations have been able to meet and talk in a concise, coordinated way. We can go to the conference with one voice because we have a place."

Women's Inter-Church Council

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) focused on strategic planning during its annual spring meeting at St. Joseph's College in Toronto May 28-30. This was the first meeting of the council under the leadership of acting executive director Pat Allinson. The meeting also reviewed the programs that WICC provides to the wider ecumenical community.

Council members heard of the positive feedback from across Canada regarding the 2004 World Day of Prayer, which was written by the women of Panama. WICC anticipates another successful celebration on March 4, 2005, when people in more than 170 countries around the world will participate in the World Day of Prayer service prepared by the women of Poland.

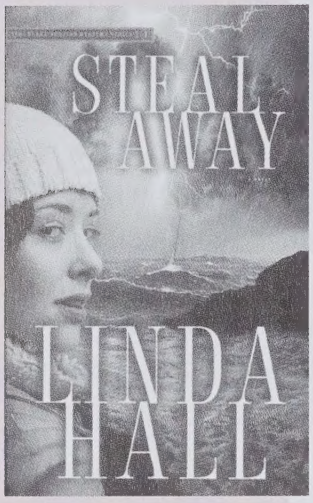
During the council meeting, WICC members celebrated the launch of *Healing Waters: Churches Working to End Violence Against Women*, which is being distributed to churches and others in ministry across Canada. *Healing Waters,* a practical guide designed to assist people of faith in their work to end violence against women, explores the pervasive violence that is part of the context of women's lives and offers worship resources, workshop outlines and other useful information to enable people to take action in a church context. This new resource, which completely updates the popular *Hands to End Violence Against Women*, has been written by Carol Penner, a freelance writer and chaplain with a doctorate in theology. For copies, please contact the WICC office or visit the website at www.wicc.org.

The summer issue of WICC's magazine, *Making Waves*, provides analysis,

Continued on page 45

The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
bookroom@presbyterian.ca

Steal Away by Linda Hall, Multnomah Publishers $18.50



"It took her three days to dig the grave." That's how this Christy nominated book set in the Canadian Maritimes begins. Are you a mystery fan? Do you find it difficult to conceive of a mystery (with humour and romance) with characters you would recognize from evangelical television, or from your own church's proper pews?

Obviously, author Linda Hall has lived behind the scenes in church and faith settings. This isn't a syrupy picture of Christianity heaped on with a spoon, but there is respect for variations of sincere faith, and lack of it, woven throughout the story.

The sleuth herself is a renewed Christian, newly married to a university professor. This book did "steal away" my sleep as I read into the night. I found myself concerned about several characters, frankly fond of others. The plot folds back on itself, with clues of colour and poetic image tucked in. The heroine, Teri, and her husband, Jack, cheerfully differ in their tastes and habits, but both are people I want to meet again. It was disappointing to have finished.

A bonus? When the intriguing story ends, it isn't necessarily over. Linda Hall has provided an end of book guide that uses the story as common ground for a discussion about faith and wrong choices, forgiveness, reactions to feeling condemned, among other topics.

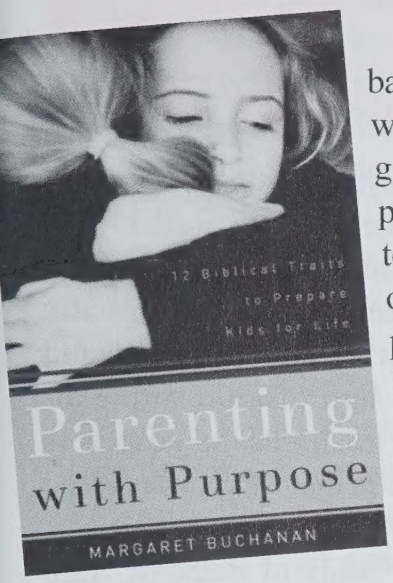
It's no surprise that *Steal Away* has won the 2004 Beacon Award and the Winter Rose Award for Inspirational Novel, the Award of Excellence from the Colorado Romance Writers for Inspirational Fiction nor that *Steal Away* and Hall's most recent novel, *Chat Room*, have both been short-listed for the Word Guild Award, for best mystery in Canada.

Patricia Anne Elford

Parenting with Purpose: 12 Biblical Traits to Prepare Kids for Life by Margaret Buchanan, Baker Book House Co. $16.95

Not required reading for perfect parents! But, if you're like the rest of us, you'll be very glad you investigated it. The title and cover appear determined and sombre. Surely not another joyless, rule laden, guilt inducing diatribe for parents and caregivers! Indeed, not! (Should have known the author of "Jerks in the Bible" wouldn't do that to us).

Using archery as a metaphor Margaret Buchanan speaks clearly, realistically, with compassion and perceptiveness, of nurturing our children in the faith. Her rueful humour and honesty tell us, "She's been there!"



Biblically based and worldly wise, her intelligent, well-supported, meaty teachings are laid out in bite size pieces, enhanced by topical and, sometimes surprising, current information summaries. This is an interactive book, inducing ongoing personal reflection. Twelve chapter ending sets of questions invite discussion. With possibly one exception (p.73, paragraph two, sentence one, re: "opposite sex"), *Parenting with Purpose* is a wholesome, readable, doable plan of action for hitting the mark.

Parents, grandparents, caregivers and congregational leaders, whether parents or not, ordained or lay, can benefit from reading or studying this book. The Church's children, from infant to senior citizen, and God's wider world, will also benefit, as a result.

Patricia Anne Elford

Patricia Elford, B.A., M.Div. is an educator, pastor and freelance writer, now living in Petawawa, Ontario.

Chocolate for a Women's Blessings, edited by Kay Allenbaugh, a Fireside Book, published by Simon and Schuster $18.75

If you enjoyed the inspirational stories from *The Chicken Soup* series, curl up with your favourite bon bon and allow your spirits to be lifted by this collection of stories by women who share the moments in their lives for which they are grateful. The collector of these stories said that when she examined what the word "blessings" meant to her, she discovered it was not just the things she loved most in her life but it was the things that she had worked the hardest for that she was the most grateful. These stories tell about women who found peace after facing challenges and hardships, and remind us of lessons that we may have learned about what is important, but overlook in our busy lives. Despite the sweet reference in the title the stories are not gooey or syrupy but, like chocolate, are very comforting.

Susan Clarke

Fall Book Competition

Five lucky readers will win a copy of Like a Winter's Aspen, published by Webber Ink (retail value of $16.95), in the Glad Tidings book competition, by answering the following question:

What region is the author of Like a Winter's Aspen from?

Correct answers should be submitted on a postcard to Glad Tidings Book Competition, Women's Missionary Society, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Dr., Toronto, ON M3C 1J7, by September 23, 2004 when the winners will be drawn at random.

The names of the winners of this competition will be published in the Nov./Dec. issue of Glad Tidings.

Good luck!

Readers Write

In Defense of Martha

The lovely poem, "Mary of Bethany," written by Lini Richarda Grol and printed on the back cover of the May/June issue of *Glad Tidings* leaves us with a rather poor impression of Martha, the sister of Mary of Bethany. Poetic licence is not a bad thing, but in mixing up the stories of the woman who anointed Jesus; the story of the death of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha; and the story of Jesus' visit in the home of Mary and Martha, the author has done a disservice to Martha who deserves better.

The story of the woman who anointed Jesus appears in all four gospels. In Matthew and Mark, the stories are virtually identical. In all four gospels the story takes place in Bethany but Matthew, Mark and Luke locate it in the house of Simon, while John sets it in the home of Lazarus. All four gospels speak of an alabaster box or costly anointment.

Matthew, Mark and John criticize the woman for wasting the money when it could have been used to help the poor. These three gospels also speak about anointing Jesus for his burial.

In Matthew and Mark it is Jesus' head that is anointed (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9). In Luke and John, it is Jesus' feet (Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8).

Only Matthew and Mark end with the beautiful words "wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Only John names the woman. He says she is Mary of Bethany.

Luke alone says the woman is a sinful woman - the sin being a sexual sin (7:39). Tradition has linked Mary Magdalene with this story and religious art usually depicts her with an alabaster box and loose hair - the sign of a prostitute although nowhere in any of the gospels is there any indication that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute.

In the poem "Mary of Bethany," Lini Richarda Grol begins with the story of Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha. What we usually remember about Martha is that she was the complainer concerned about the mundane task of preparing dinner while her sister, Mary, sat serenely at the feet of Jesus listening to his teaching. This story has often been taken to mean that housework and cooking are not really that important (the impression given in Grol's poem). However we may debate the interpretation of the story, this particular interpretation is a poor one. The story is not about housekeeping and cooking. This story comes right after the parable of the Good Samaritan where the priest and the Levite did not do the "one thing needful" which was "to love God and to love your neighbour." The one thing needful is always the same for everyone: to put God first. In the case of Mary and Martha, the one thing needful was to take advantage of the opportunity to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to his teaching. As the lawyer in the parable of the Good Samaritan apparently knew when he quoted the law that the one thing needful was to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all

your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself," but as we often do, he seems to have missed the implication of what this meant in daily life. I guess this is why biblical preaching is so important.

The story of the death of Lazarus is found in John's Gospel. It is not Mary, as Grol says, but Martha who runs out to meet Jesus. It is to Martha that Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life," and it is Martha who makes the same confession as Peter, "You are the Messiah, the Son of God," although it is Peter's confession we remember and not Martha's. In this story, Martha goes to tell Mary that Jesus has come and is asking for her and it is then that Mary goes to meet Jesus. The story of the anointing of Jesus in John's Gospel is not part of this story (as suggested in the poem) but comes at a different time.

It is good to praise Mary, but it should not be at Martha's expense.

Lois Klempa

Jesus' visit to Mary & Martha: Luke 10:38-42
Death of Lazarus: John 11:1-44
The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

Hello again:

Re: "Do You Need a Will?" Jan./Feb. 04 *Glad Tidings*. I had written to you about a pamphlet "Preparing for the Loss of a Loved One" (letter published in May/June 04 issue). This pamphlet was written by Evelyn Ball who has written a further pamphlet "When You Have Lost a Loved One" which moves on to the next steps of responsibility and is also very helpful.

Eleanor Ellis
Brantford, Ontario

Both pamphlets are carried by:
McGarry Family Chapels
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry
Ottawa, Ontario
contact@mcgarryfamily.ca
Phone: (613) 233-1143
Toll Free: 1-888-539-9642

Dear Editor:

To receive these pamphlets readers may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Evelyn Ball at 1258 Woodside Dr., Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 2G9 and I will send them out by return mail.

Well over 1500 copies of "Preparing for the Loss of a Loved One" have been distributed to individuals, churches, hospitals, nursing and retirement homes for photocopying. And the feedback has been most encouraging. Then recently, "When You Have Lost a Loved One" has also been made available; it is more suitable after a death has occurred.

From experience, I know how difficult it is to have to handle a loved one's affairs when you have nothing to go by.

Sincerely, in His service,
Evelyn Ball

Answers to puzzle on page 19:

barley	honey
quail	bread
herbs	beans
milk	cheeses
wine	Olives
fish	water
corn	mustard
locusts	wheat
almonds	pottage
nuts	egg
apples	raisins

Mission in Action

Rebecca Carter
Nicaragua
YIM

On May 2nd I left Moncton bound for Managua, Nicaragua to participate in a three-week Youth in Mission trip—the experience of a lifetime. Nine young people and our leader, Karen Plater from Presbyterian World Service and Development, made up our team. We were met at the airport by Denise Van Wissen, a Canadian who has worked in Nicaragua since 1991 with the support of *Presbyterians Sharing...*

The people of Nicaragua have suffered greatly. Years of war, government corruption, housing shortages, poverty, earthquakes, hurricanes, make life very difficult. Sweatshops (maquillas) provide low paying jobs with poor working conditions for women, producing goods to satisfy the materialistic wants of North American countries. Many children supplement the meagre family income by washing car windows, selling goods on the streets and in the markets, or doing anything else that might earn them a few dollars. Despite many challenges, the people are still gracious and hopeful.

Upon arrival in the busy capital city of Managua, we settled into the INPHRU (Institute for Human Promotion) hostel. This hostel, supported by PWS&D, provides a safe temporary shelter and counseling for victims or potential victims of domestic violence. With roosters crowing, horns beeping, and endless traffic just outside our windows, sleep was not always easy. One night we heard loud pops and the guard came running up on the balcony with gun in hand. There was a gang shooting right behind the place where we stayed. It was a frightening experience.

Two students in a marketplace at an INPHRU school

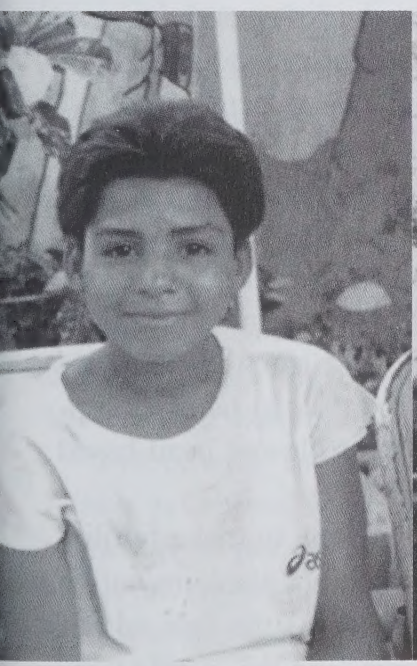
Rebecca Carter with a l

We visited five major markets in Managua and learned about the important impact INPHRU and PWS&D are having on working children and youth. INPHRU is a non-governmental organization founded in 1966 by ecumenical efforts. INPHRU's educators help working kids integrate into the school system and help provide the required school uniforms, books and backpacks. Most street kids have been mistreated and abused. INPHRU staff seek to find preventative methods and solutions to these problems, focusing on the promotion and protection of children's rights. INPHRU's apprenticeship program helps youth learn work skills in ceramics, baking, printing press, and silk-screening. The program not only helps them learn a specific skill, but also trains them on how to behave in a professional work environment. INPHRU also provides health care, preventative health education and counseling for children.

A radio program and a magazine, "From the Street," also assist in INPHRU's important work. Children improve their communication skills by writing for the magazine and by working on the radio program.

Our YIM team worked on a project with another PWS&D partner, the Association of Young Christians (ACJ). We worked to help improve the youth centre in Achualinca, a community that is built around the city's dump. Together, with volunteer youth from the centre, we painted, cut trees, mixed cement and shovelled gravel and sand, to transform a sandy area into a solid outdoor patio, creating a larger area for their youth programs.

The temperature was hot—36 degrees but it felt like 44 degrees. We worked hard and ended up filthy dirty but with satisfaction for a job well done. We ate rice and beans, pork rinds, chicken, eggs, tortillas, plaintain chips, fruit, and more rice and beans. On our final day we enjoyed a fun day with youth from Achualinca, and Boaco, a poor rural area where ACJ works. Together we played



named Oscar at the ACJ

Participants and volunteers with the programs at ACJ

games (like jengo, soccer, checkers and basketball) and built friendships.

One evening we attended choir practice at Batahola, a community centre for youth that has been supported by PWS&D and International Ministries over the years. In surroundings of brightly painted murals, we enjoyed singing and dancing by the youth choir. The director told us how important music and art are to help transform youth who often live in very difficult circumstances and are not given many opportunities.

The final partner of the Presbyterian Church in Canada that we visited was Soynica, an organization that is working to help impoverished families in nutrition, health and agriculture. We visited a health and nutrition workshop in a barrio, a very poor neighborhood, in Managua. During our visit the nutrition educators worked with mothers and children to help the children develop hand-eye coordination, and learn about good nutrition through a song. There is an important focus on the benefits of breastfeeding.

During our third week, we travelled to Ocotal, in northern Nicaragua where Denise works with Soynica's nutrition and agricultural teams. The roads were in such poor condition that we were forced to drive through a river to reach our destination. Our return journey to Managua was quite delayed as we had to wait patiently for detours caused by protestors on the roads demanding more funds for universities from the government.

In the north we saw the work of Soynica by staying with rural families who participated in Soynica's agriculture and nutrition programs. While there we helped community women make green leaf extract from the edible leaves in the gardens. Green leaf extract cures and prevents iron and vitamin A deficiencies, a common problem in children under age 5 and in women of childbearing age. It also helps to treat anemia.

To make the extract we began by removing the stems from yucca leaves. The de-stemmed leaves were then crushed through a grinder, and boiled. The resulting pulp was drained through cheesecloth, and the leftover juice was the 'extract.' It did not taste too bad after sugar and pineapple juice were added!

Soynica also uses soya beans as a way to economically increase the protein in the children's diets. Soynica helps campesinos (small-scale farming families) plan their harvests to guarantee their food security all year round. They promote home gardens to help families supplement their corn tortilla and bean-based diets.

We also learned how to make fertilizer and began to transplant plantains until a heavy rain started. It was the first rain of the year in this area, and the people were

Overseas Staff Birthdays

December

15 - Rick Allen, Kenya

31 - Sheila McKelvie, Pakistan

January

10 - David Pandy-Szekeres, Hungary

very excited. (The Canadian Foodgrains Bank also helps with agriculture for food security). We also visited a centre where children and babies are weighed. Soynica makes such an important difference in the lives of many people by teaching nutrition classes, promoting and supporting breastfeeding, and helping communities rebuild after Hurricane Mitch.

Three weeks in Nicaragua stretched my horizons and gave me unforgettable memories.

One participant summed up our experience by saying, "This trip touched my heart and opened my eyes to a whole new world of people I knew existed but now have a face."

Rebecca adds, "I am very grateful for the financial assistance that the WMS gave me through the Isabella Brown Memorial Fund."

Rev. Margaret Mullin
Winnipeg Inner City Missions

I was listening to a radio interview of local candidates for the upcoming federal election. A woman called in who identified herself as middle class and in response to a discussion surrounding abject poverty in our city she asked, "Why do we [the city and its citizens] keep opening our arms to "those people" who won't learn to help themselves?"

I work with "those people" every day. I take exception to good middle class working people being so misinformed about poverty issues that they are willing to blame the victims of our own unjust social policies and practices.

We Canadians pride ourselves for being one of the best societies in the world to live in. But, there is a social disaster happening here in Canada folks. Its name is poverty. Our First Nations people, namely the Indian, Inuit, and Métis people have been socially, politically and economically marginalized for generations. Many of our new immigrants are living in poverty through no fault of their own. The poor of all nationalities in this country are getting poorer. As a direct result lives are being devastated by drug, alcohol and solvent abuse, and by gambling and criminal activity. It's much easier to call them "those people" than it is to right the wrongs that have been and are being done to them.

Just get a job you say? Easy if you had nutritious food and family support as you grew up so you were able to learn. Education is the key to economic success in Canada. Anyone can find a job you say? Easy if you are young and have been fortunate enough to have been working since you graduated, but not if you dropped out of school because you needed to help your family survive or you could not learn or you did not fit in.

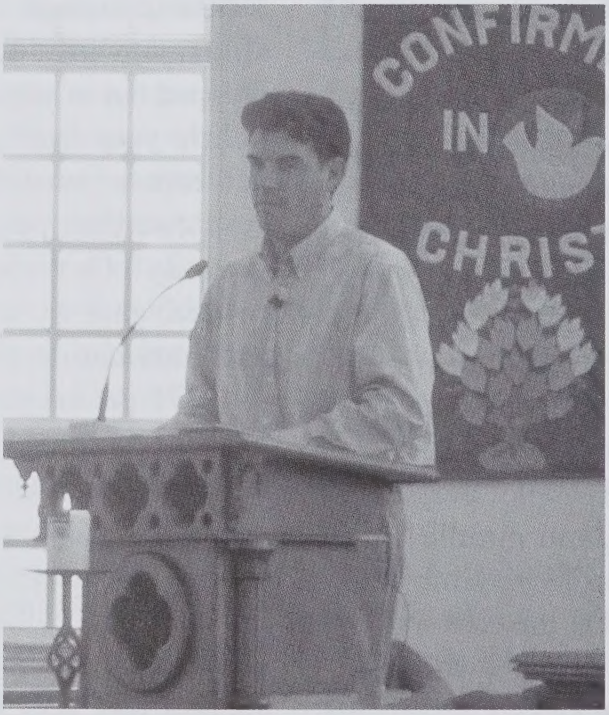
Rewarding people for bad behaviour you say? Our social safety net is no reward; just try to find clean and safe accommodation anywhere in Winnipeg for $271 per month. And poverty with all of its accompanying problems being labelled as 'bad behaviour' is in itself bad behaviour! As a society we accept that cancer and heart disease are our fault. We encourage billions of dollars to be spent on treatment, research, and education. We support and help the cancer victim and

the victim of heart disease. Well poverty is just as lethal as cancer, just as debilitating as heart disease and just as chronic as diabetes. Why do we consistently shun the social responsibility for poverty in our midst? Because it is easier to think of the poor as "those people" who will not learn to help themselves!

Steve Ross visits
St. Andrew's Church, Newmarket

Mission worker Steve Ross visited St. Andrew's Church in Newmarket, Ontario while he was on deputation this past June. The congregation learned a little about Steve and how he came to be involved in mission work in the Ukraine.

Steve grew up on a dairy farm in Norwood, Ontario. He had an ordinary childhood doing what other boys in Canada enjoy doing like playing hockey with his friends. There was one interest that Steve had that was unique from his friends, however, and that was his love of travel. This love of travel and a few other events, including receiving a pamphlet about Youth in Mission, are what eventually led Steve to the mission work that he is doing today.



Steve is assisting with a Canadian Foodgrains Bank seed distribution project in a rural area of the Ukraine and is involved in seminars that help local farmers to better understand agriculture. These seminars educate the farmers on topics such as proper seed depth, when to fertilize, when to harvest and what to do about crop diseases.

Besides the farmers that he is in contact with, Steve also spoke about the gypsy people that live in this region. When Steve first arrived in the Ukraine this group of people struck him most profoundly being the "the poorest of the poor" and he said his first instinct was to give them something. He now feels that you do not teach by giving alone because if you give something today the problem will still be there tomorrow. Although he is not certain what the solution is to aid these oppressed people, he has made an effort to make a difference in their lives. He is involved in a Sunday school class in a gypsy slum that has proven to be challenging but worthwhile.

Steve relayed to the congregation some of the obstacles he has faced in his attempts to bridge the gap between the children and himself. For example, he thought he would start class with some simple crafts; however, when he asked the children to draw what they thought a church looked like the children just

stared back at him. Unexpectedly, some of the children had never seen instruments to draw with or craft paper to draw on. He actually had to take some children's hands in his own and draw with them to show them what to do. In another instance, Steve thought that a simple game of soccer might bring this Sunday school together; but, when he divided the children up into two teams and gave the ball to one team, the children with the ball ran off leaving Steve and the other children standing there. The children who were left behind asked unhappily, "What kind of game is this Steve?"

Steve concluded his speech by saying that he used to view himself as a humanitarian but he realized that if he was just a humanitarian he would have given up his work long ago due to the incredible frustration and difficulties he has faced. He now knows that he is a missionary and that he is doing this work for a "greater good." That he is "spreading God's word out of love and care." He suggested, as a closing comment, that we need to have more sympathy for the people suffering in the world; that we have become too comfortable in our "bubble" of comfortable Canadian Christian life.

Richard Schwarz
Nepal

She was 19, beautiful and intelligent, about to start her training as a medical assistant. The world was her oyster until she woke up paralyzed from the waist down by transverse myelitis, a rare disease in which the body destroys part of the spinal cord. Overnight she became bedridden, unable to control her bowel movements. Her supportive family took her to local doctors and then to Kathmandu and finally to Indian hospitals, but as the weeks went by with no improvement they began to take her to witch doctors and other local healers. Finally they gave up and Manju was brought home. She had given up hope of walking but was determined to get around as best she could, hanging on to furniture and walls to at least make it around her house. After a year and a half of this existence she was brought to Pokhara to consult a Buddhist healer. By this point she was quite depressed, and had given up all hope of walking, marriage, or work. She was staying near one of our nurses and thus heard of the existence of Green Pastures.

Soon after coming to Green Pastures we could see her stubborn determination to get back on her feet. She has worked hard on using what muscles were left her by the disease and learned quickly how to best use them. With foot splints and crutches she began walking around the hospital, refusing help when she fell down. While here she heard about Jesus and has made him Lord of her life. She now wonders, "Did God bring me to this hospital?" We have arranged for Manju to get into a course to learn office skills, and it is such a pleasure to see her growing spiritually and developing as a person.

Which change in her life was more important? The physical change of learning to walk again; the social change of taking one who is completely dependant on her family to being self-supporting; or the spiritual transformation of finding the

peace, joy and eternal security found only in Jesus Christ? Wholeheartedly, we would say that all are important for her as an individual loved by God. Focusing on her spiritual need without attention to her physical and social needs would leave her with belief but still in a desperate situation. Integral mission is all about bringing about total transformation in people's lives, the kind of radical change Jesus and His followers effected in the New Testament. So often we read of Jesus saying not just, "Be healed," but also, "Your sins are forgiven," both aspects brought together in the simple statement, "your faith has made you well." Integral mission means loving the whole person, and wanting to see God's transforming and healing power working in all parts of people's lives. Love that desperately shares a person's desire to walk again, to work again, and to see that same person transformed into a child of God with hope not just for their future on earth, but for their eternal life as well.

"Holistic mission" is a term often used for this type of work and while it is a good term, it has come to be associated with development work done, or even just paid for, by Christians. When one looks around the world at what is being done in the name of holistic ministry, many times one finds simply "good work, being done by good people," in which it is hard to find the aroma of the living God at work. At times this kind of "mission" is indistinguishable from that done by secular aid agencies. The Bible is very clear on this: man without Christ is lost. To neglect telling of the great news of God's saving grace falls far short of the biblical mandate.

On the other end of the spectrum come those who are involved in exclusively evangelistic ministry. While we are all called to different roles in the church, for the church as a whole to ignore people's physical and social needs also falls short of the biblical ideal. In 1 John 3:17, NIV we read, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" When Jesus chose to illustrate God's greatest commands, to love God and to love your neighbour, he did so with the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), an intensely practical example of what love for your neighbour implies. While Jesus clearly said that to love God is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-31, Matthew 22:36-40), surprisingly we find that the entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Galatians 5:14, see also Romans 13:9). James makes it clear that to speak about faith without practical evidence of that faith in acts of love for others is hollowness. "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him?" (James 2:14). God obviously expects that a real love for Him and faith in Him will compel us to show compassion to the needy.

Integral mission involves development of the whole individual, as modeled in Jesus' own development as a boy. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). Jesus grew in wisdom (mind), physically

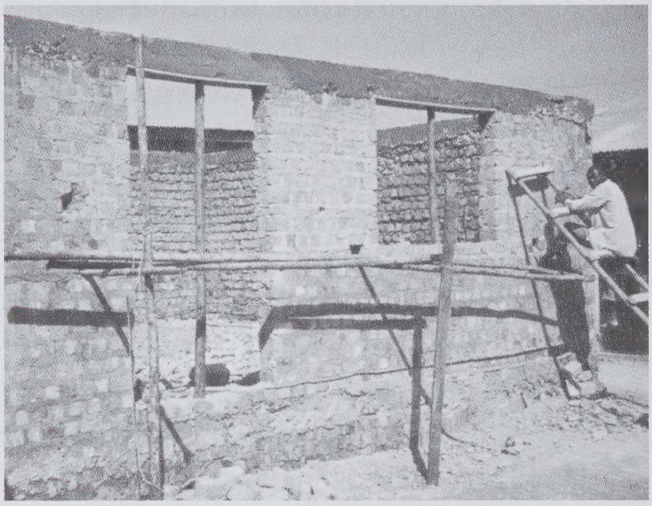
(stature), spiritually (favour with God) and socially (favour with men). This is a model for not only our own personal development, but also how Christian development or mission should look. Our ministry should be bearing fruit in development in all of these four areas of people's lives. We will seldom see all of this happening at the same time, or in the same person, but over time integral mission will bring about a radical transformation in people's lives that will make others stand up and take notice.

Presbyterians are involved in integral mission through their support of patients at Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara, Nepal. While only a minority of the staff is Christian, several people are there from a real call from God to minister to the whole person. While they have never heard the term, integral mission, they are living it out daily in ministering to the disabled and those affected by leprosy in practical and spiritual ways. Seeing the lame walk again, useless hands made to work again, broken hearts made whole again, the unemployable being put to work are all everyday occurrences at Green Pastures. At the same time, many come to know Jesus as the one who brought about the healing in their lives; and go on to bring this good news to others in remote parts of Nepal and many other similar places around the world. Presbyterians need to be involved in this kind of mission in Canada as well, in their churches and neighbourhoods, families and communities, bringing about change in all areas of their own and other people's lives.

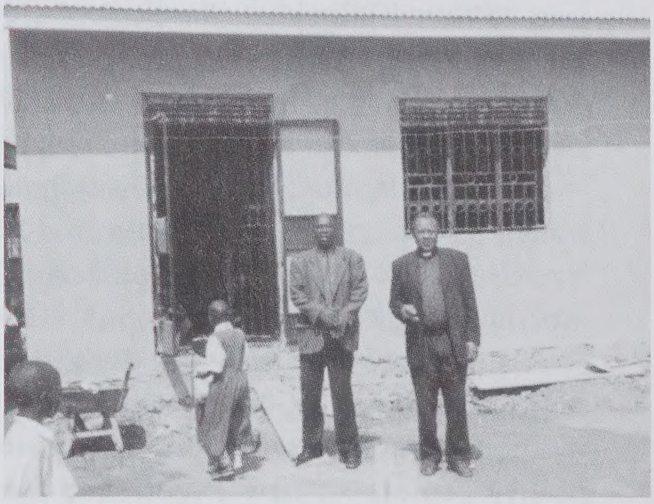
Gift of $6,000 Builds Library in Uganda

Back in the spring of this year the WMS gave a gift of $6,000 to help build a library in Uganda. CanHave Secretary Dorothy Nekrassoff sent a letter of thanks on behalf of CanHave and the AIDS orphans who are students at this school. Dorothy wrote: "So...thanks be to God, and to the WMS, one school has a library."

The two men outside the library in the photo are the principal and Canon Erasmus Bitarabeho.



The library being built



The building is done and the library is in use.

Synodical

The annual meeting of the Synodical of **Quebec and Eastern Ontario** was held at St. Luke's-Knox Church, Finch, Ontario, on April 16-17 with very good attendance.

Joanne Instance of Winnipeg, WMS past president, did a PowerPoint presentation of her recent visit to India. She gave up-to-date information on the situation in the Bhil field.

Our presbyterials and local groups are busily knitting blankets, toques and pneumonia vests for Malawi, India and Central America. These dedicated WMS women are also contributing scholarship money for Indian girls to attend school. Thirty-five dollars covers the cost of tuition, uniforms and books for one girl for a year.

Other speakers included Linda Pasmore, telling of her visit to Cuba with fellow student ministers from Presbyterian College and Rosemary Rutley of Ingleside gave ideas and encouragement in the production of church histories. She particularly mentioned the historic background of St. Matthew's Church, Ingleside, as a result of the seaway construction.

A musical group, Walk by Faith, presented an inspirational concert on Friday evening. Rev. Mark Bourgon led in worship and a communion service.

Anita Mack and Christine Ball, our regional staff workers, conducted Saturday morning's worship in the form of "spirituality centers" a new experience for many of those present. Later in the morning Rosemary Rutley relieved the seriousness of the program with a lively skit.

Finally, thanks to Sheila Paterson for her leadership during the past years.

Presbyterial

Rejoice in the Lord Always (Philippians 4:4a) was the theme of **Barrie** Presbyterial's 90th annual meeting held at Knox Church, Port Carling, Ontario. President Evelyn Horne constituted the meeting with prayer. Rosemary Herbert, Port Carling's president, welcomed everyone. The Elmvale WMS presented the devotions.

The annual reports were received and business was conducted. June Campbell reported on council at Crieff Hills.

The memorial service was prepared and presented by Jill Pardy. Jean Jones led a prayer for mission. Outgoing officers were recognized by June Campbell. Charlotte Duke installed the new officers. Susan Patton's book review reminded us of the variety of categories available. Several books from the book table were mentioned.

June Campbell and Rosemary Herbert led a hymn-sing. Pianist for the day was Margaret Bellinger. Dinner was prepared by the Port Carling WMS.

Jean Crump introduced the evening speaker, Heather Paton. Heather had spent one year working at the Chigodi Women's Centre in Malawi. Her program and workshops there focused on gender and HIV/AIDS. Many questions followed and much was learned about the women

and children of Malawi. Heather thanked the WMS for their support in this project. Lois Cullis thanked Heather followed by courtesies to all who made this day successful. The meeting closed with the benediction led by Rev. Steven Smith.

Can a New Life Spring from Missions? was the theme of the fall rally of **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial. Vice-president Bernice Richards presided for the day's activities. Rev. John Hogerwaard, minister of Atwood Church, and Jeannie Ballantyne, Atwood WMS, welcomed the women.

Reports of the southwestern Ontario synodical held in Niagara Falls were given by Ina McMillan, Ruth Laing, and Eunice Bisset.

The morning speaker was Eric Heweson, Listowel. He displayed several perennial flowers and gave gardening hints for growing them.

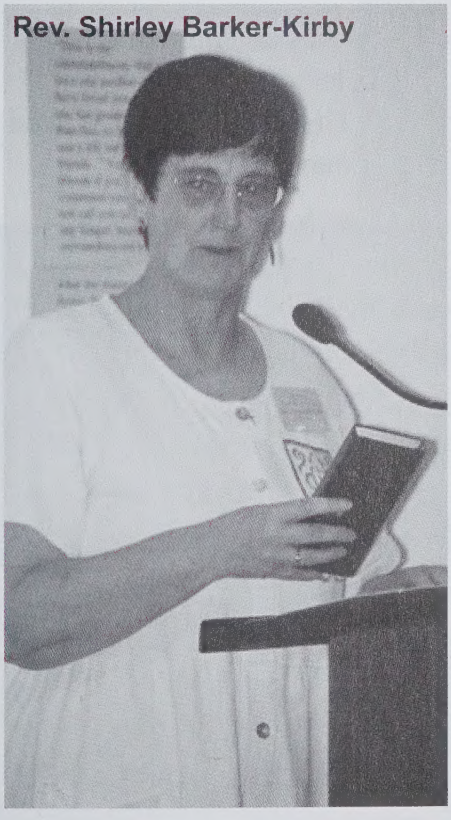
In the absence of Elizabeth Stewart, Marion Smith, Monkton, gave the treasurer's report. Jean Sangster, Bayfield, reported on the "Pennies for Patrick" project. Patrick says that the only hope for Malawi is through the churches.

Area Education Consultant Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs gave the scripture and meditation on the meeting theme.

Jan MacInnes gave grace before lunch.

The afternoon program began with duets by Joyce Schalk and Kate Tormey, accompanied by Mary Chapman. Barbara Tubb, Doris Webb and Janet Gibson, St. Marys, gave the afternoon devotions.

Jean Edmunds, Mitchell, introduced the afternoon speaker Rev. Joe Reed a missionary in Central America. He told of nutrition problems, the life of people living in slums and people working in


Rev. Shirley Barker-Kirby

Presbyterian women gathered on June 5 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan to explore their Christian faith journey under the capable leadership of Rev. Shirley Barker-Kirby. Shirley led us through a number of exercises in which we explored how the Holy is present in ordinary everyday events. The tangible and the spiritual world intersect when people of faith speak their stories. God invites humans into loving relationships and guides those who seek the divine. Shirley emphasized that the Holy becomes present through careful listening to each other. We learned about the importance of "story bearers" and "soul friends" and tried to discover who they were in our personal lives.

Rev. Catherine Dorcas led us in worship. Her gentle and meaningful stories interspersed with singing and guitar playing provided a poignant addition to the message of the speaker.

sweat shops, for example. A very interesting question and answer period followed. Mary Duffin of Stratford thanked him.

The offering was received and dedicated by Monkton WMS. Helen Dunseith, Harrington WMS, gave courtesy remarks. The meeting closed with a prayer by Bernice Richards, Stratford.

Glad Instruments of God's Love was the theme of the **Maitland** Presbyterial spring rally held on May 31 at Knox Church in Kincardine, Ontario. Sixty members enjoyed a delicious salad supper served by Kincardine WMS.

President Marjorie Deyell welcomed everyone and opened with a reading from John 4:7-12. Andy Burgess, a member of session brought greetings. Molesworth afternoon WMS led us in worship; they spoke about Mary and Martha in relation to home. Shirley Hawthorne treasurer of Maitland gave the treasurer's report.

Judy Lyons of Belmore gave a report on the highlights of synodical held in Drummond Hill Church, Niagara Falls.

Isabel Jones a member from Kincardine WMS accompanied by Miriam Barrie shared special music. Shirley McCall introduced WMS President Margaret McGillivray of Goderich. Margaret shared her special experiences in Malawi. She visited Livingstonia and Blantyre Synod. Our money supports the work in Malawi; many prayers are also needed.

Betty Johnston of Molesworth presented an honorary membership to Audrey Adair. Agnes Bregman presented a farewell gift to Shirley McCall on behalf of the WMS of Maitland. We will miss you Shirley. Lucknow WMS gave the closing prayer.

Winnipeg Presbyterial held their annual June rally at First Church in Portage la Prairie. Joanne Instance, Ina Borger and Elizabeth Watkins presented reports from the May council meetings held at Crieff Hills.

Hazel (Ratcliffe) Horne
May 9, 1925-May 5, 2004

Leigh's Corners was the little place
Where Hazel Horne was born.
On Ratcliffe farm near Hawkestone small
Was happy birthday morn.

Her friend, Ruth, had a sister small
While she was an only child
But when the next year rolled around,
She had a brother mild.

Leigh's Corners School was where she went
With friends to learn and study.
In class and on the farm next door
Was Ruth, her special buddy.

St. Mark's (It was an Anglican)
Where organ lessons took.
With Everett Horne she then was wed.
On farm to clean and cook.

At Esson Church for many years
(They number'd forty-three)
The organ there she played each week.
Bore daughters numb'ring three.

Her second child was son named Wayne.
Her children totaled four.
While president of Esson groups
She often held the floor.

Now Hazel was a friendly gal.
Enjoyed grandchildren fine.
We'll miss our friend of many years.
In memory she will shine.

Submitted by: Lois Cullis

Four youths were recognized at the 50th anniversary of the **Daughters of Knox**, Acton on May 2. From the left: Youth Group Leader Mary Findlay, Nathan Brown, Emily Henderson, Lynn Watson, Joel Aitken and Margaret Toth of the Daughters of Knox, an affiliated group of the WMS, and executive of Brampton Presbyterial.

Almonte, Ontario, WMS celebrated Mission Awareness Sunday. Members led the service as they have done each year since the idea started.

Wednesday, June 2 at the anniversary dinner meeting, three long-time members Marion McLeod, Ruth Shaw and Ruth Langman were presented with life memberships and pins at **Esson, Orillia** WMS.

All three have been members for many years and have held a variety of offices in the WMS.

On April 17 **Westminster WMS, Calgary**, held an Indian dinner for the congregation. This event was planned as a part of the WMS study on the Bhil region of India. Rev. Dr. Ian Gray showed slides he had taken when he was part of the delegation attending the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Presbyterian Church in Chichaniya, India in November of 2003. Agnes Hislop, also a member of the delegation, was a special guest for the evening.

Pictured above helping prepare the dinner are members of the WMS. Left to right: front - Janet Neil; Shirley Barnes; Catherine Pearsall; Lyla Stevens; Margaret Ritchie; back - Clay and Kathy Swalwell.

A Remarkable Woman

The Niagara Presbyterial has been very blessed to have a most remarkable woman in its midst. Her name is **Isobel McKeown**. We might also say that at 94, Isobel must be the oldest active member of the Women's Missionary Society.

She is a member of the Stamford Church WMS in Niagara Falls, which includes the groups from Drummond Hill and the Chippawa Churches. Isobel attends faithfully and takes her turn in all parts of the program as well as guiding us if there is a question of protocol. Her memory is phenomenal. Recently the Southwestern, Ontario WMS synodical held its annual meeting at Drummond Hill Church and there was Isobel at the registration desk greeting old friends with warm affection.

One could also say that Isobel had an early start with missions, because at four or five when she was in the "Mission Band" with her mom, she wanted to earn "talent money" to give to the missions. To do this she was permitted to look after the chickens and when they had chicks, she could sell them. I imagine Isobel would have been hard to resist.

Isobel never thought she would marry a minister after growing up in the manse, but she did! William McKeown immigrated to Canada from Ireland and joined St. James' Church in Toronto and the Young People's Group where he met Isobel.

CGIT was a big part of Isobel's life before and after marriage, first as a member and then as a leader. After her marriage she became a member of the WMS and served in many capacities. She still enjoys presbyterials and synodicals and has received a life membership pin and was made an honorary president of presbyterial.

The McKeown's last charge was at Drummond Hill Church from 1950-1973.

On a personal note this gracious woman remains in her own home; is able to look after her own needs; continues to drive and is on her computer daily

communicating with family and friends. She says, "It has been a wonderful life, I wouldn't change a thing."

We love you Isobel!

Submitted by: Marjorie Wincott

In 1954, fifty years after the formation of the Grace Church congregation, it was decided that an umbrella organization was needed to co-ordinate the ten women's groups and their activities. The **Women's Fellowship** was formed and still runs today with representatives from each group and an executive.

Past Presidents. Left to right: front - Margaret Peacock; Joni Ermter; Maureen Cumming; Vivian Scott; Jean Burnand; Kay Vanden Brink; back - Sheila Grogan; Helen Willison; Marlene Campbell; Audrey Young; Barb Cichon; Mary Stewart; Marjorie Leeson

On April 28 we celebrated its 50 year anniversary with a catered dinner in the church dining hall. The first secretary, Florence Stott, read her first report submitted to the church annual general meeting. Other members took part in retelling its history, fund raising events and sponsored projects.

Although the Women's Fellowship is not a WMS group, it gives a large donation each year to Calgary-Macleod presbyterial. Its biggest fund raiser is the making of almost 2 tons of fruitcake with profits of approximately $14,000!

One hundred women joined in the festivities and after a devotional by Greta Bylsma we enjoyed a hilarious musical program with Fran Cormack and Joyce Gibson.

A thank you and tribute were given to the past presidents.

News continued from page 27

background, stories and other resources on anti-racism. The fall issue will focus attention on violence against women as part of WICC's contribution to "On the Wings of a Dove," a World Council of Churches' campaign to overcome violence against women and children, a key part of its Decade to Overcome Violence. This issue of *Making Waves* will also include important resources such as the December 6 service, available in both English and French this year, and encourage Canadian women to learn about and participate in the Sisters in Spirit campaign organized by the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada is a national Christian women's council including representatives from 11 church partners. WICC continues to provide resources and support to Canadian church women in the ongoing work for ecumenism, justice and peace.

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CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

At a workshop on marketing led by Kevin Shanley, he talked about the life cycle of a magazine from infancy to the golden years. He stated that for some magazines the market has shifted because the content no longer reflects the needs of the reader.

We discussed the three medical diagnoses of publications – incurable, possibly fatal and diseases that are curable if treated. The magazines that are incurable are the ones in which the market they are serving is declining or has disappeared.

As a Society with declining membership are we striving, through our magazine, to become "curable if treated"? When a WMS group becomes smaller or disbands it has an affect on the subscriptions for Glad Tidings. The cure and treatment for this decline is for all WMS members to promote the magazine in order to get new subscribers. One way is to highlight an article and the mission emphasis of the magazine in the church bulletin. This might even recruit new members for the groups.

In November 2003, the Council Executive had agreed to increase the cost of Glad Tidings in 2005 to $12.00 (includes GST) for six issues. This will help offset some of the increase in costs of publication. Please return the subscription lists by November 1, 2004 in order that changes etc. are made for January.

Looking for a unique gift ?

These two young girls from Darfur, Sudan have found refuge in Chad. Finding laughter and smiles in a refugee camp is possible, even among refugees who have lost family and home, because they have finally found a safe place. Your gifts to PWS&D help support refugees and internally displaced people fleeing conflict raging in Darfur, Sudan.

Give the gift of laughter by making a donation to **PWS&D**. When you give a donation in the name of a friend or relative, PWS&D will send that person a specially designed card indicating that you have given a gift in their name.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7 tel: 416-441-1111or 1-800-619-7301
pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

photo: Bjarne Ussing, ACT

IN REMEMBRANCE

Cathie Nicholl
Grace, Calgary, AB

Betty O'Donnell
Varsity Acres, Calgary, AB

Ellen Huckabone
St. Andrew's, Cobden, ON

Gladys Campbell
Burns (Mosa), Glencoe, ON

Mrs. Sally Hill
St. Enoch, Hamilton, ON
(Member of the Margaret Allan Auxiliary for 70 years)
*died at 96 years of age

Mrs. Donelda Moffat
Lucknow, ON

Verona Watson
Knox, Midland, ON

Hazel Horne
Esson, Orillia, ON

Mrs. Eileen Polley
Knox, Oshawa, ON

Marie Downie
Knox (Kintyre), Rodney, ON

Bernice Sharpe
Thornhill, ON

Mary Houston
Glebe, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Joan Carmichael
Knox, Vankleek Hill, ON

Ruth Bedard
Joyce Chappell
Beth Laugher
Kitty Marshal
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON

West Coast Fall

Clashing gold and bronze echo
throughout crisp autumn days.
Shimmering vibrant yellows catch the sun
toss it leaf by leaf
warming the sodden forest
until the subtle tones of amber, topaz, russet
and maroon
catch fire.
Shout out and sing
Praise God
As dying leaves fall to the hungry earth.
Dance
Celebrate His gift
This flaming orange
This burnished gold and bronze.

Vera Jensen

PM40013283 R9517

Please report any errors/changes in address.

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November/December 2004

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

No Women, No Peace

By Bradley, Goldberger, Willard

Peace. A simple word. Yet achieving peace can seem unattainable. There are currently 16 United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, involving 55,457 military personnel from 97 different countries. For some, there is virtually no memory of what it is like to live in peaceful times. For many, the dream of living in peace seems out of reach in their lifetime or even in their children's lifetime.

In our relationships with people of other countries, especially those who have a long history of unrest, we as people of faith seek ways to help heal the hurt caused by living in such crises. We cannot imagine what it is like to wake up uncertain of the day's events, unable to plan, unable to know if your family will all be together at the end of the day. While we certainly cannot fully comprehend what living in such a state of upheaval does over the long term, we can feel empathy for our sisters and brothers around the world as they suffer, often without a voice in their own future.

What is it like to be displaced from your home, separated from your family, and living in a makeshift camp? How does a woman comfort her child night after night as bombshells explode nearby, shattering glass and bringing cries of pain and sorrow? How does a father find food and water for his family when his legs have been shattered by a landmine? How does a child, now parentless, find a place to lay her head to rest?

In addition to the questions that arise for us as people of faith, what is our role as members of the human race? What role does our government have in furthering peace? What is our call to action as peacemakers? How does our faith inform our actions? Perhaps a pivotal question to consider is: If we were experiencing war as a way of life, what would we hope others would do?

As women of faith, one of the most powerful tools available to us is prayer.

"A heartfelt prayer is more powerful than an atomic bomb."

Grandfather Harry Bird, a Native American elder, is credited with saying, "A heartfelt prayer is more powerful than an atomic bomb." What may appear to some as a passive approach, a spoken or silent prayer can carry great force, and only grows in strength when our voices are united.

There are many ways to define peace. God's love demonstrated through our actions is a beautiful expression of peace personified. Women are constantly finding and creating new ways to reflect the love of God through our actions and throughout our communities. Here are some ideas you may wish to consider for inclusion as you seek your peacemaking path.

Women As International Peacemakers

On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. Resolution 1325 marks the first time the Security Council addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women, recognized the undervalued and underutilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building, and stressed the importance of their equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.[1]

In short, this Resolution underscores the fact that peace is inextricably linked with equality between men and women. Although entire communities suffer in times of armed conflict, women and girls are particularly affected, and constitute the majority of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons.

> The need to increase the participation of women in all aspects of peace operations and at all levels, particularly at the highest levels of decision-making, remains a priority concern. The first female Special Representative of the Secretary-General was appointed in 1992 in the United Nations mission in Angola. Now, years later, there are still only two Special Representatives who are women (in UNOMIG, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and in ONUB, the United Nations Operation in Burundi). The

> Secretary-General has called on Member States to increase the recruitment of women as military observers, peacekeeping troops and civilian police.

Fortunately, the role of women in times of war and in the quest for peace is not only defined by the ways women are affected by violence, conflict and strife. Women play an important role in peacekeeping and peace-building, reconciliation and reconstruction. Plus, Resolution 1325 reminds world leaders that women have the greatest untapped potential to help shape peace.

Have you ever heard of Resolution 1325? Most of us have not been aware that this Resolution has been accepted and in effect since 2000. What is perhaps even more tragic than our ignorance to this is the fact that no one is holding the member nations of the United Nations accountable to this Resolution. Here is certainly a point of entry for all potential peacemakers. Knowledge is power. Once armed with greater awareness, we are better prepared to act.

Other Peacemaking Opportunities

Of course, the United Nations and Resolution 1325 represent only one area in which women can positively impact the future of peace. There are a multitude of organizations that are designed to allow individuals or groups to become involved. Groups such as Unifem (www.unifem.org) and Peace Women (peacewomen.org) have copious amounts of information available on their Web sites for those just getting involved or seeking new venues to explore in their peacemaking process.

One organization that seems a natural fit for many women is PEACE X PEACE (pronounced Peace by Peace). Established in 2002, PEACE X PEACE started with a circle of women seeking to answer the questions, "What is peace?" and "How are women empowered to build it?"

Founder and executive director Patricia Smith Melton has developed this organization as a "nonprofit organization that uses the Internet to support the peacebuilding work of women locally and globally, through connection, recognition, and education." The intention of this organization is expressed nicely in this excerpt from the PEACE X PEACE mission statement:

> We live in a time of crises, with violence devastating nations, children living in poverty, women

U.S. tanks on the roads of Baghdad

being raped, mothers' needs being ignored. Our world is a global community—our lives are intertwined with those of all people; each nation's security and prosperity is linked to the security and prosperity of all nations. Global peace is an urgent local need.

Peace is more than the absence of violence. To be sustained, peace must have substance-financial equity, education, participatory democracy, restorative justice, and open communication. Human needs such as food, water and shelter must be met, but also the needs of social and political equity. Without these, peace will not continue.

Today, this organization is connecting groups of women all around the world via the Internet. By understanding each other and our daily lives more fully, we can together grow toward a more peaceful future. Certainly we can all attest to the power that comes from a circle of women. Imagine what can happen when circles are connected across communities and around the world.

A Day to Focus on Peace

Peace is active. Peace takes effort. It comes from the choices we make, the relationships we build, the responsibilities we accept and the inaction we resist. One major focus for persons seeking peace is the International Day of Peace, celebrated each year on September 21.

The United Nations' General Assembly Resolution 55/282 invites all member states, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and nongovernmental organizations and individuals to "commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire." This date is a global focus point, one day for people throughout the world to observe peace in their community.

An important part of this worldwide celebration is the International Day of Peace (IDP) Vigil, which encourages people to pray for peace all over the world. Participating in an event like the IDP Vigil can have a great and lasting impact. By thinking globally and acting locally,

Ten Peaceful Things to Do Right Now

1. **Pray.**
2. **Meditate on the word peace.**
3. **Use a Bible dictionary to look up peace.**
4. **Forgive someone against whom you hold a grudge.**
5. **Breathe deeply.**
6. **Add a peaceful blessing to your email or written correspondence.**
7. **Sing a hymn or song with "peace" in the title.**
8. **Constructively resolve an argument.**
9. **Learn more about something of which you are afraid or unfamiliar.**
10. **Write your own daily prayer for peace and share it with friends and family.**

participants develop peacemaking skills, model peace-building for others and make peace a topic of conversation in our churches, homes and communities.

While the International Day of Peace has passed this year, why not start thinking about next September? What conversations can you have between now and then that would increase awareness about peacemaking initiatives? What might you do to be a more active peacemaker? How will you celebrate the next International Day of Peace?

In the July/August 2005 issue, we will revisit the topic of peace. It is our hope that we can raise the unified voice of women across [North America] to help further the future of peace around the world. There is no time like the present to proclaim peace in our hearts, homes, churches, communities, and the world. May the collective voices, actions and prayers of women everywhere make peace a reality.

Leah Ellison Bradley, Nancy Goldberger and Monica Willard all contributed to the composition of this article. Leah is an associate editor for Presbyterian Women's magazine, *Horizons*. Nancy is the editor of Women of the ELCA's *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine. Monica is a nongovernmental organization representative for the United Religions Initiative to the United Nations.

continued on page 21

A Peaceful Effort

"Wouldn't it be great if all women's religious publications observed the International Day of Peace and dedicated an issue to focus on peace?" Nancy Goldberger, editor of *Lutheran Woman Today*, wondered aloud. A member of the *Horizons* editorial committee overheard the idea and shared it with the staff of *Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women. A few months and hundreds of phone calls, e-mails, and invitations later, four women's religious publications committed to publish an issue together to promote peace.

In our July/August 2005 issues, four magazines—*Glad Tidings* (published by the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada), *Horizons* (published by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)), *Lutheran Woman Today* (published by Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and *Response* (published by United Methodist Women of the United Methodist Church)—will publish a joint issue on peace as a part of their regular magazine cycle. The task of creating and publishing something for our four very distinct audiences will be its own exercise in peace negotiations. The truly exciting part is knowing that our combined readership of nearly 200,000 women will be touched by the same stories and inspired by the same ideas, just as we're all moved by the same Spirit regardless of where and how we worship.

Make plans now to be part of this landmark event in the life of your women's publication. Ensure that your subscription is current (or subscribe to all four!). Consider ways you can share and use the ideas in our joint issue to celebrate the International Day of Peace. Coordinate an ecumenical dialogue between readers of each magazine involved in this venture. We ask that you not only pray for all who are involved in bringing these publications to you, but for all those who do not live in peace. Spread the word about this special joint issue within and beyond your women's group.

Leah Ellison Bradley, associate editor, *Horizons* (www.pcusa.org/horizons)
Nancy Goldberger, editor, *Lutheran Woman Today* (www.lutheranwomantoday.org)
Dana E. Jones, editor, *Response* (http://gbgm-umc.org/response)
Holly Wilson, editor, *Glad Tidings* (www.presbyterian.ca/wms)

The Aerogramme

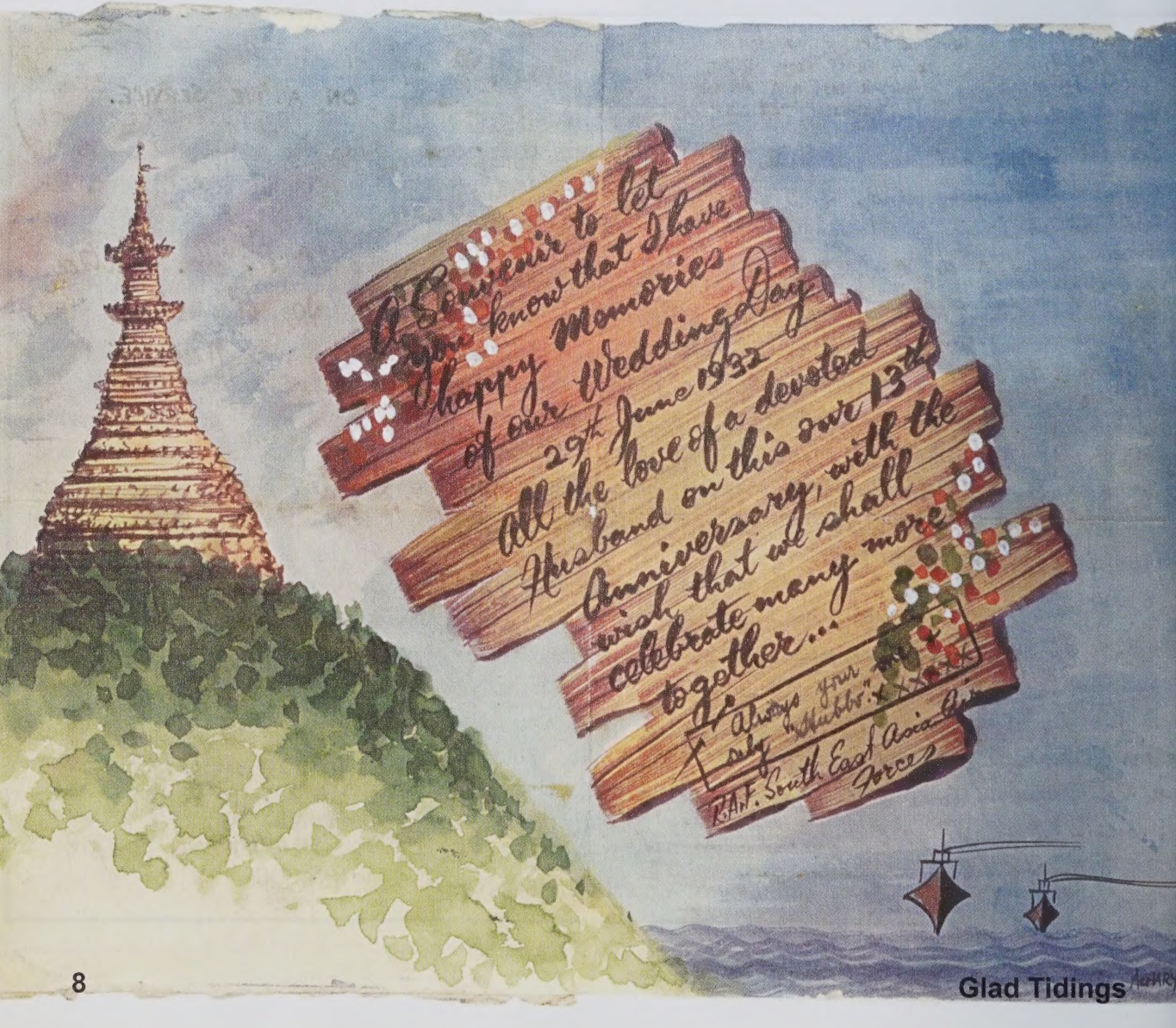
by Jo Leath

Ace Ury served in the Royal Indian Air Force, and the initials RIAF follow the signature on the picture. The name is not so much unintelligible as it is nonsensical; the letters are slightly disjointed, resistant to English logic or simple combination. Ace Ury was in Rangoon in 1945, the same time that my grandfather served there as a corporal in the RAF, England's Royal Air Force.

At home in England, Nanna Ella, my grandmother, was the single parent present in the lives of my father, my Uncle Derek and my Auntie Anne. The boys were in school; Anne was a babe in arms. They lived in a modest home in Liverpool, an important shipping centre: a target for enemy bombers.

Air Raids, the Blackout, rationed food and limited access to consumable supplies were facts of everyday life for my Nanna. Adding her constant fear for the safety of the children, and the emptiness of her bed as she wondered what her husband might be enduring, cannot reveal the truth of her experience.

Ace Ury shared Grandpa's Rangoon experience; he too was away from home,



absent from the birthday parties of friends and family, always hoping that there would be an opportunity to discuss that absence from a future presence.

Ace Ury listened as Grandpa talked about his upcoming thirteenth wedding anniversary, and offered to illustrate a greeting that would fall within the allowable postal regulations from those on Active Service. Grandpa agreed, and provided an aerogramme for the purpose.

It is a flimsy thing, this aerogramme, as flimsy as my connection to Ace Ury, and yet what power it has, what a colossal influence on the way I see my world.

Ace Ury's painting united my grandparents in 1945. It is not a link like one loop in a long chain, rather it blossoms at the centre of a spider-web, connecting many directions, and places and lives.

The simple content of the picture illustrates the continuity of sea and sky; the omnipresence of That-Which-Is-Greater; and the resultant unity of human experience on Earth. It ties Burma's green jungles and temple roof-lines to the navy at sea and thereby to England. Burma travels to the presence of the recipient, whom Ace Ury would never meet.

Inscription:
A Souvenir to
let you know that I have
happy memories
of our Wedding Day
29th June 1932
All the love of a devoted
Husband on this our 13th
Anniversary, with the
wish that we shall
celebrate many more
together ...

Always your one and
only "Hubbo" X X X X X X
R.A.F. South East Asia Air Forces

The inscription has been painted as though on wood. I fancy it is some exotic Burmese jungle wood, the same used to construct those shelters where airmen ate and drank and slept, where they wrote lonely letters home to those they called beloved. Huts where Ace Ury and my Grandpa became friends.

The web which is the painting, splays to associate different times. A war-dominated day in 1945 connects to the wedding day filled with love and joy, in 1932. My own time in the new millennium is now a part of those events, because Ace Ury shared this talent.

I relish the knowledge that my grandparents built their family - my family - on a foundation of affection and respect and devotion, and that they enjoyed many more anniversaries together before death did them part.

Ace Ury did not labour on this work, he may soon have forgotten it existed. I hold the insubstantial aerogramme between my fingers and I am filled with awe at the impact a stranger can make across the generations. Through this revelation, I am called to be mindful of my words and my actions and the artifacts I leave behind me as I travel through my life.

Each of us is at the centre of a web of grand possibility. Let my web be one of love and compassion; let the strands be strong to surmount the turbulence of daily life; may the lives of those who glimpse me from afar be improved by what they see, as mine has been by the brush-strokes of Ace Ury.

An ACT team performs a rapid health assessment among children in Hasaba.

Sudan Longs for Peace

Under one of thousands of tiny, makeshift shelters dotting the arid, lunar-like landscape, Khaltoum and her family long for peace.

Khaltoum's shelter consists of a few sticks and a collection of rags. A mere gust of wind could send it toppling, and it offers no protection against the rains that are beginning to sweep Darfur, Sudan. Still it is a brave attempt by the 30-year-old mother to create a new home for her family.

Khaltoum and her family are part of a wave of terrified Sudanese who have been forced from their homes by the conflict in the Darfur region. Tens of thousands of African farmers have been slaughtered and driven from their homes by Arab raiders, known as janjaweed. The Sudanese government has been accused of having authorized and armed the Arab fighters to depopulate the western Darfur region after its farmers rebelled against the government's authority.

Khaltoum arrived at Hasaba camp in desperation after spending weeks hiding in the mountains. After surviving on the meagre amounts of food she rescued from her home, she finally decided to make the journey to Hasaba, joining other families fleeing the flames of their burning villages. With a baby on her back, she and her family made the long journey on foot.

All of this would be cruel enough, but Khaltoum is also mourning the loss of her husband, shot in an attack in February. Her eyes fill with tears and she looks away as she explains why he is no longer with his family.

The conflict in Darfur is being called the world's most serious humanitarian crisis. Thousands of children face starvation and millions have been left homeless. Humanitarian aid shipments have been routinely blocked and refugees cannot leave the squalid camps for fear of attack.

The needs are overwhelming. Water, food, sanitation, health care and shelter are required by more than one million people.

PWS&D has been helping Action by Churches Together (ACT) provide shelter, clean water, sanitation and survival packs containing cooking pots, jerrycans, soap and other basic items for families in Hasaba and other camps. Emergency airlifts have brought crucial supplies into the region.

The farmers in the camps long for peace, and the chance to return home to rebuild their lives.

Karen Plater, based on facts from ACT

Presbyterian World Service & Developmer
sent Action by Churches Together (ACT) $20,000 to assist victims
the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Remembrance Day

Somewhere a woman thrusted fear away
faced the future bravely for your sake.
Toiled on from dawn 'til dark; from day to day.
Fought back the tears, and hid the bitter ache,
She loved you, breathed your name in prayer,
like you she had a cross to bear.

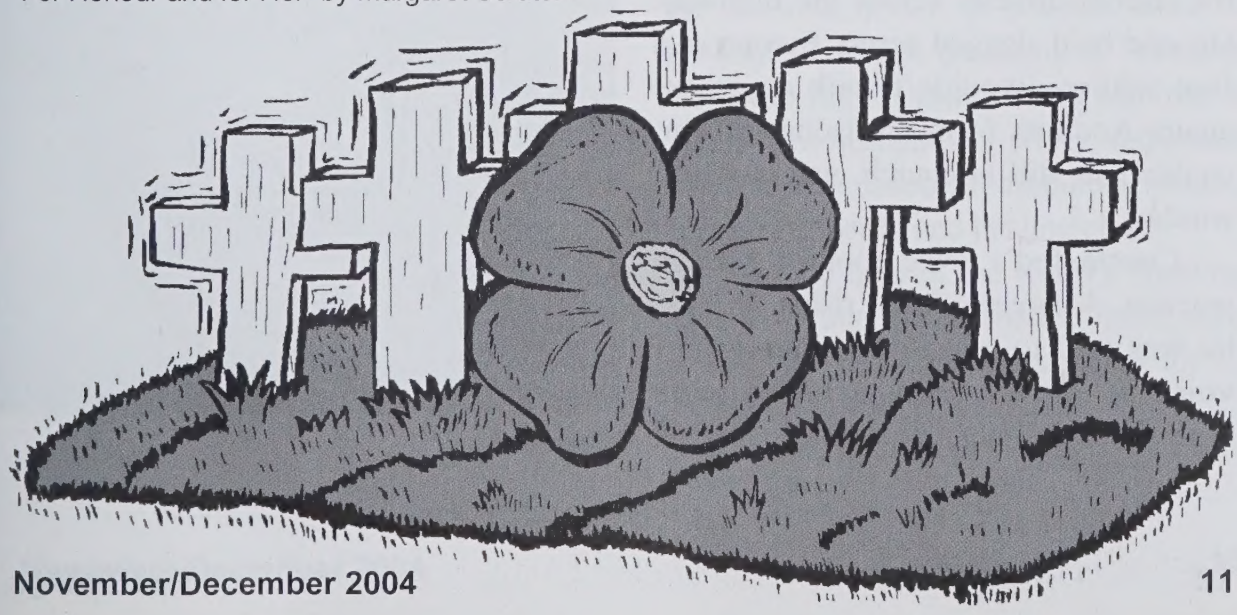
Somewhere a woman - mother, sweetheart - wife
waited with hopes and fears for your return.
You had her love to cheer you in the strife,
When death confronted you so grim and stern.
She sent you letters - hid her grief with care,
she too had a cross to bear.

Somewhere a woman waited - filled with pride,
shrined in her heart, you shared a place with none,
She toiled, she waited, prayed 'til side by side
You'd stand together, when the battle's done.
Now years have passed, I'm sure we're all aware,
Each one left waiting had her cross to bear

Remembering tonight, the joys you've shared
Good times you've had together through the years,
And, being grateful that we have been spared,
remembering other women - and their tears
To be alone we all are well aware,
can be the greatest cross of all to bear.

Adapted by Mariann Pafford

Mariann was inspired by a poem that her husband sent to her from England during WWII entitled "For Honour and for Her" by Margaret Scruton.



No Tin Soldiers

by Patricia Anne Elford

It isn't real for me, the Great World War, except for some songs. A memory for others, not even a memory for me.

The Second World War: "war to END all wars."

It was leftover ration coupons used for playing store with my brother.

It was a vague story of cousin Clinton tip-toeing into my room, with Mom and Dad, to peek at me in my crib before he went "overseas."

It was Mom's first cousin, Ted, sending parachute remnants for her to make into a blouse.

It was Aunts Peggy and Teddy, war nurses, sending two dolls made in Europe and two storybooks from England. Treats.

It's Aunt Teddy's attic footlocker, and sepia photographs of young men and women in uniform.

The Korean War is only Alan Alda's M.A.S.H., the Vietnam War in disguise: humour and gore sprinkled lavishly. Not real. What is real are war's bloody fingerprints.

A former parishioner drives his car to the church directly across the highway. He said he'd slogged across Europe as a foot-soldier…wouldn't walk anywhere again. Another, former prisoner-of-war, couldn't sit still in church, unless near a window.

Cousin Ted's voice boomed through practice. A career soldier, rising in rank, he was told to work at deepening his voice, to grow a moustache, to seem older for "his" men. Three days after an artillery shell killed companions and messed him up, he was almost missed by stretcher-bearers until one last groan reached them. He came back minus large portions of his legs. The deeper fingerprint was something else. Almost sixty years later, when he drank, eyes tear-filled, he'd remember aloud how at 20-something, as an officer, he'd sent about 100 men forward. Only a handful came back.

It was his job. It wasn't a tactical error.

One incident of many, yet the pain continued to eat into his gut; pain that alcohol wouldn't burn away.

Cousin Ted

It continues.

My husband and I have done counselling for Camp Petawawa...

More fingerprints.

Nightmares: scenes too terrible to share with a spouse.

She, not understanding why he turns away; can't touch her skin without weeping...Isn't he glad to be back?

Another soldier: Why, since her return, she can't eat specific foods, can't bear to smell certain things cooking.

God has created us with "fight or flight" instincts, but we're not meant for war with its primary and collateral damage. That "fight" instinct can be used against poverty, prejudice, social injustice.

"we're not meant for war with its primary and collateral damage"

War is a wound, disrupting, festering, destroying life's vibrant fibre.

When monuments naming the local living and dead of three wars were planned, probably there was concern: people might forget, and a grateful feeling of finality... No more names! Never again!

All of these persons, whether or not they've rocked in deep despair, minds torn apart by shock; whether they've suffered physical pain; whether they died, all took the same chances when they signed up. They volunteered to go into unknown territory, to heal when they could, be a loving presence when mending wasn't possible; trying to put aside "thou shalt not," to kill, so others could live in peace...

Not easy! Not tin soldiers! Real people, with all their flaws and fears and pain, their hopes and dreams and nobility. Today, war's fingers reach out again, too close...We tremble.

Our family lives eight minutes from Camp Petawawa, twenty minutes from Chalk River very near Pembroke airport. Weapons practice has shaken our windows since we moved back here, but yesterday when it happened our son raced downstairs to see if we were all right. Earlier, he wondered aloud, "If they call men up, will they start with those near the base?" He has no idea of how it works. He doesn't know that people, like those named on monuments around the world, conquered their own fears to fight the battles for civilians like him and me. Because of them, we've enjoyed fearless peace for a long time, long enough for many to forget, or never know war. We thank God for their gifts of self.

Many of Canada's military are now on peacekeeping missions. Today, I wear the invisible ribbon. It honours those in invisible uniforms: the families, "keeping the home fires burning," who also pay a price when husbands or wives, fathers or mothers, are absent, maintaining peace, or bringing peace and healing about.

May the time of the world's "beating its swords into ploughshares" come very soon! May our Lord prepare us for it, and, grant us true peace. Amen.

Over the past 20 years, approximately 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing in communities across Canada. Yet government, the media and Canadian society continues to remain silent.

On March 22, 2004 the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) launched a one-year campaign to lobby the federal government to establish a $10 million fund for research and education related to violence against Aboriginal women.

Key goals of the Sisters in Spirit Fund include:

- Research to document the number of and circumstances around Aboriginal women missing or killed in Canada.
- Public education regarding underlying causes of violence against Aboriginal women.
- Educational workshops on missing women and their families.
- A hotline and registry to report disappearances and register statistics.

Take a step: Support the National Campaign, remember and educate

- Write a letter urging the Prime Minister to establish the Sisters in Spirit Fund.
- Find out about missing Aboriginal women in your area.
- Educate yourself about the root causes of violence against Aboriginal women. Invite a speaker to address these issues for your WMS group, church or community.
- Use the workshop or liturgical resources produced for the campaign.

For support of these actions and more resources, contact NWAC or Alexis Dimson, WMS Program and Marketing Coordinator.

Native Women's Association of Canada
1292 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 3A9
1-800-461-4043 ext. 229
sistersinspirit@nwac-hq.org • www.nwac-hq.org

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

In June 2003, the IAC presented to the 129th GA of the PCC its yearly report, titled "God is our Refuge: Security in an Insecure World" (Part 1) and "Reconciliation and Hope in A Multi-Faith World" (Part 2). This report has been printed in the A&P of the GA.

The paragraph above may give rise to a number of questions:

What do these abbreviations IAC, GA, PCC, A&P mean? Who wrote the report? To whom is the report presented? If I want to read it, where do I find it?

The abbreviation **IAC** stands for **International Affairs Committee**, a committee of the General Assembly (**GA**) of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (**PCC**), which appoints six members. Five appointees by the Life and Mission Agency (**LMA**) and one each by the Women's Missionary Society (**WMS**) and the Atlantic Mission Society (**AMS**) augment the committee.

The overall goal of the International Affairs Committee is to help Presbyterians across Canada to be informed and aware of important international issues for study, prayer and action. (Mandate of the IAC)

To attain this goal, the IAC issues a number of publications, among them this bulletin insert called **Time for Justice!** These inserts contain summaries of sections of the yearly Report. The IAC hopes that these publications will move Presbyterians to engage in more informed prayer and actions.

If you are interested in reading the full report, you can find it in the Acts and Proceedings (**A&P**) of the General Assembly, familiarly known as the "Blue Book." It is sent annually to every congregation and posted on the web site www.presbyterian.ca under "Church Documents."

Text: Dineke Kraay Editing & Design: Gail Turner

Focus on Youth Program

Something amazing is happening in the small town of Vankleek Hill, Ontario. I pick my way across the playground, dodging two soccer games and something that resembles football, to check in with *Michael* who comes to my Friday night youth group. He asks what we are doing this Friday night. His curious friend asks him what youth night is. Michael replies, "It's where you learn about God and stuff. We do a Bible study and play some games, you should come!" Michael's face is glowing and full of excitement. I am shocked that a grade 7 boy uttered the words "Bible study" on the school playground! His friend did come a few weeks later. It is just one example of how the Focus on Youth Program is reaching the youth in this community.

A group at Knox Presbyterian Church felt called to provide something for the youth in their community. It took several years, but now the Focus on Youth Program is a reality. It is a Christian outreach program for youth in the area. Knox provides financial backing for the program, with a large majority of the funds coming from fundraising events held in the community. Costs include salary for one staff person, and programming costs.

As the staff person for the Focus on Youth Program, I coordinate grades 6-8 youth night, high school dinner nights, special events and retreats. A recent addition is Sunday Night Live Youth Worship, a service which is held once a month.

A highlight of the program is a monthly free lunch for high school students. About 35-100 youth attend each month. The excitement is evident; I am often stopped in the halls while I am at school as young people will ask me when the next lunch is. They eat, hang out with their friends and head back to school. At one of these lunches three young people approached me and asked if they could see the sanctuary. What followed was a very "Holy" moment. They checked out the stained glass, the pews and the hymn books. It gave them a moment to touch, see and listen in a place where people meet to worship God. Maybe that moment will help them feel comfortable entering into a place of worship. Maybe it was just the quiet moment that they needed before heading back to school.

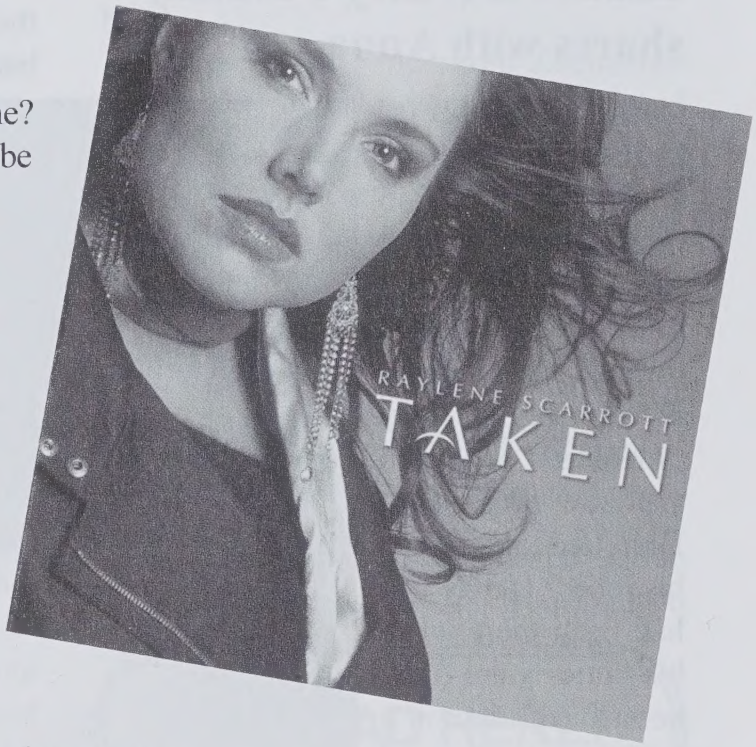
If you would like more information about our outreach program, please check out www.focusonyouth.ca.

Kim Webster
Youth Worker

Who Am I

It always amazes me how such a BIG God could care about my little life. I may not understand all there is to know about God, but I do know one thing—that I am His child. (Psalm 8:3,4) (Job 11:7-9)

I try to wrap my mind around the thought of You
I stretch myself so far I nearly come unglued
You hold the universe inside Your hand
Still You thought of me
I can't believe



Is there no limit to Your love for me?
As shallow as this selfish heart can be
You are the maker of reality
And I stand in awe
You are God

Who am I
To understand Your ways?
Who am I
To give You anything but praise?
Who am I
To try and solve the mystery
Behind the heart and soul of all that I believe?
Who am I?

You're every reason for my heart to hope
Creator of the dreams I've yet to know
You are the river for my thirsty soul
You are my desire
You are God

I am Your child
I will follow
You gave Your life
For my tomorrow

2004 Raylene Scarrott from the CD *Taken*
www.raylenemusic.com
Written by: Sam Mizell, Terry Fritsch, Marshall Hall

A Meditation

One of a series of meditations which give voice to women who encountered Mary. Step back from the familiar traditions, consider other possibilities, and open your hearts and minds to receive Christ afresh. See pg. 27 Nov. /Dec. 03 *Glad Tidings* for Meditation on Anna (the prophet).

Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) shares with Anna

I had a special dinner waiting for Zechariah. I was so proud of him! As you know Anna, not many small town priests get the honour of entering the Holy of Holies. I'm so glad you saw him go in. Didn't he look fine in his robes? If only you had been there when his duties were over; he arrived home in a terrible state. He tried to tell me what had happened but he couldn't speak–not one word could he get out. I was really worried, thought he had contracted some terrible illness. But he looked healthy enough, in fact he looked…radiant is the word that comes to mind. Well, there he was flinging his arms around and trying to mime something. This is crazy, I said, and went and got the slate. When I read what he had written I was staggered. But then, I thought, why shouldn't my husband receive a vision. He is a good man. And he is married to a good woman. I've never believed barrenness to be a punishment for wrongdoing. Many good women have been barren: Sarah, Rachel, Hannah and Samson's mother.

Zech was keen to go to bed right there and then but I wasn't having a good meal wasted. I'd put a lot of love into this dinner–his favourite food, special candles and all. Besides, Zech had walked a long way and he needed to keep his strength up.

I was pregnant within the month. I didn't dare believe it until three months had passed, but deep down I knew. Well over forty and never felt fitter. I was hardly showing when we got a visitor. It was my cousin's girl, Mary, the one engaged to

for Advent

Joseph, the carpenter. She should have been at home preparing for the wedding. It was a shock seeing her. I hadn't told the family; well, what if things hadn't turned out OK? But she knew! She hugged me and called me blessed.

I know I can trust you Anna. The thing is the girl was pregnant. Don't breathe a word of this. It is a difficult situation; the child isn't Joseph's. Yet, when she told me she wasn't distressed. Turns out, she too had been blessed with a vision. The very moment Mary told me she was pregnant my child leapt in my womb. I'd felt little flutters before but this was a real kick, a kick of joy. I knew it was a sign.

Mary stayed for three months. We crafted our own song of joy based on Hannah's. We did our exercises together and made baby clothes. She does exquisite work for one so young; you should see her swaddling cloths! It was a good thing Zech couldn't talk because he wouldn't have got a word in edgeways! Of course I did feel sorry for him, especially after our son was born. He so wanted to bless him.

The child was perfect. The birth hadn't been too bad. The labour was strong but steady. Young Mary was a great help, sponging my brow, rubbing my back and clasping my hand. I was so tired but what a wonderful feeling holding my own baby. A son for Zechariah; he didn't need words to tell me he loved me.

The neighbours were all around with little gifts. They were astounded when I told them our boy would be called *John*. There are no Johns in your family they said. You must call him after your husband.

Anyway, they pestered Zechariah asking him to nod in agreement. Instead he reached for his slate and wrote: *The child's name is John*. "Why John?" they shrugged. "John," shouted Zechariah, "is the name God has chosen." Well, that knocked them for a six. Zech and I just hugged each other and didn't care what the neighbours thought. We had our son. We had each other and God had blessed us. Life can be wonderful Anna.

Rosalie Sugrue
New Zealand

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Contact Holly Wilson
hwilson@presbyterian.ca or
Alexis Dimson
adimson@presbyterian.ca
for rates or more
information today!

Advertising Copy Deadline
for the January/February
2005 issue is
November 15, 2004.

Christmas Without Scott

My son would be 17 years old now. Christmas is coming again and Scott won't be here to celebrate with us. I don't want to imagine what that will be like. I am so thankful that God is my God and I can walk in his strength. I know I don't have enough of my own.

I got the call on August 14th, 2003 from the hospital. It was around 10:30 at night. I knew it was bad when they said, "you better come with your husband." My immediate need was to get to the hospital—right away. In spite of that, I was careful. We took our time driving—it was during the blackout that covered all of Southern Ontario and some of the United States. We drove slowly, even though my only thought was to go fast so we could see Scott.

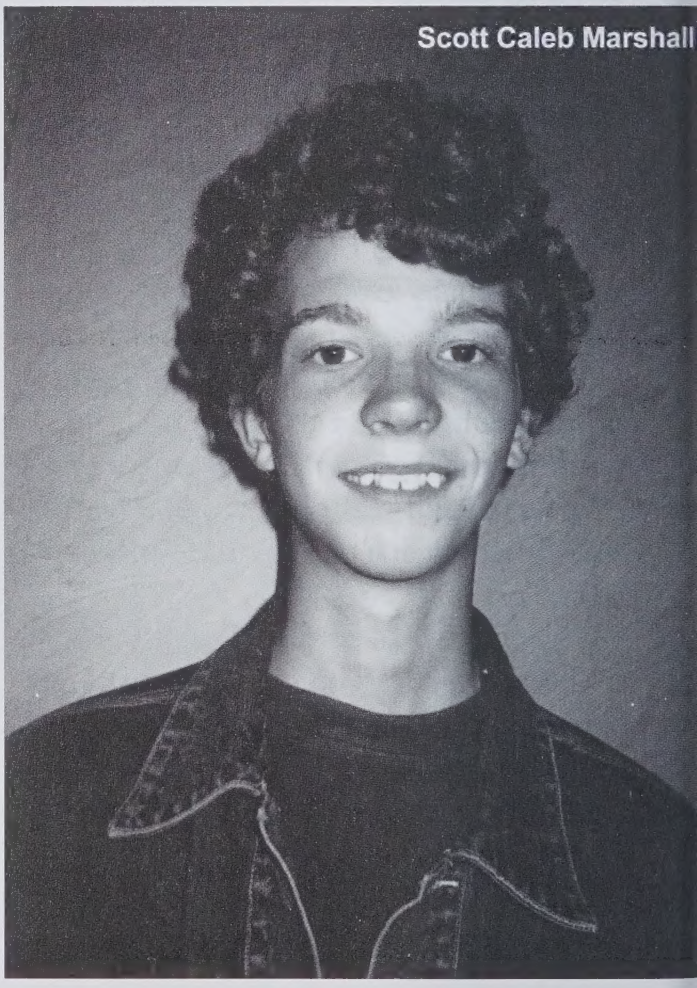
Scott was transferred to McMaster Medical Centre where he died seven days later. My only flesh and blood, born of my body is gone. The fruit of my womb has been plucked from me.

I get up and now my beautiful young man isn't there for me. There to chat with me; to hug; to smile; to laugh with; to discipline; to talk quietly; to wave at as he rides down the lane; to welcome home after a long day.

He was the greatest kid. The angriest he got was when he would whine 'Ahhh-hhhh' and then carry on with something else.

I loved him with a mother's love. Only a mother's heart knows how deep that love is. He's gone. He's gone—forever in this life. But I will see him again. Because we believe and celebrate Christmas and Easter, I know I will see Scott again.

We had such plans, such hopes and dreams for him. He had his own great



Scott Caleb Marshall

plans too: To follow God. He would have made such a great uncle, not to mention husband and father, grandfather, great-grandfather. He loved kids. He was always working with kids. Now, he will never hold another child in his arms on this earth and I will never hold him in mine. He has gone from my arms to the arms of Jesus.

He's with God now. I know that. I know he's happy. But I wasn't finished with him. I needed to have more of him. Parents should never have to bury their child. I miss him. I will always miss him. The rest of my life I will look at special days in a very different way—Thanksgiving; Christmas; March 30th—his birthday; Father's Day; Mother's Day; my birthday; my husband's birthday; August 14th—day Scott was hit; August 22nd—the day Scott died.

Not for one minute during this whole experience did my faith waiver. God is love. I feel so privileged to have had Scott 'on loan' from God. He was the perfect kid for us—a match made in heaven. Only God would know how perfectly we were knit together as a family.

God sent his Son to earth. He watched him being born. He was there, just like he was there for the birth of my son, Scott. God saw Jesus being born. What a night it must have been. No wonder the skies were full of the heavenly chorus of angels. My heart soars when I think of my son and my heart breaks when I think of the sacrifice God made for us—His only Son. I understand that so much more deeply now.

I will always praise God for the birth of His son, Jesus Christ. Christmas will be different this year, and every year I have left on this earth. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus, and mourn the separation we now have from our son, Scott. I'm so happy Scott is with his Lord; it's just that the separation is hard, very hard.

We have the memories of Christmas' past. We will break bread together as a family, remembering the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We will celebrate His birth and thank God for his life; his death and his resurrection.

At the same time, we will miss our buddy Scott to share the wonder, the joy, the excitement of Christmas.

My life will never be the same. I will never experience joy in the same way I had. I miss my son. I do not understand God's plan for me, yet I know with my whole heart that I will always celebrate Christmas and Easter and give praise to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory. Merry Christmas.

As told to Nancy F. Revie
by Sally A. Marshall

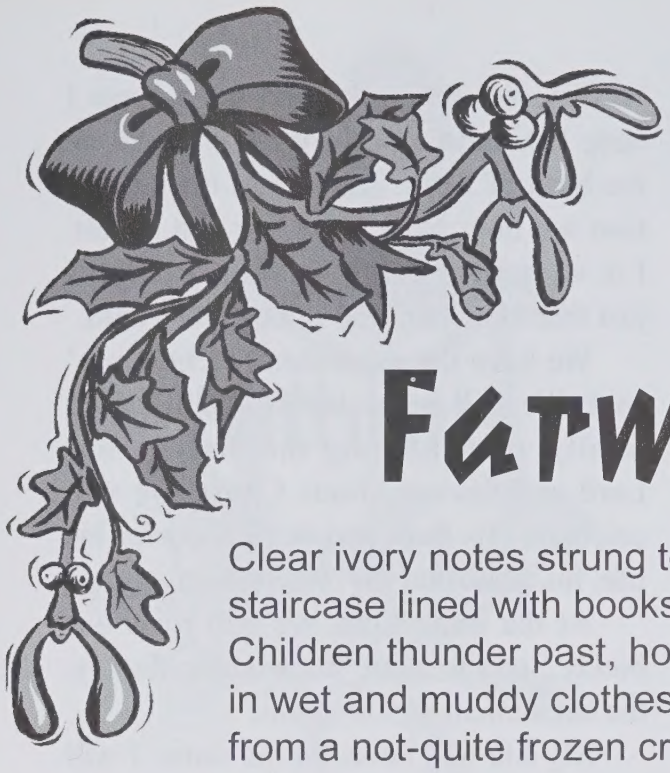
No Women, No Peace
continued from page 7

Notes

[1] From the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom www.peacewomen.org

Other sources consulted include:

- UN Press Release, SC/6816, March 8, 2000 (http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2000/20000308.sc6816.doc.html)
- The United Nations web site (www.un.org)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (www.peacewomen.org)
- PEACE X PEACE web site (www.peacexpeace.org)



Farm Holiday

Clear ivory notes strung together drift up a wooden
staircase lined with books, socks, and Christmas wrappings
Children thunder past, howling and guffawing
in wet and muddy clothes fresh
from a not-quite frozen creek

Carols flow in even gentle cadence
of Silent Nights and Little Towns
Upstairs, a computer taps out a message to the world
while down the hall, a pen paints sights and sounds
on yellow foolscap

The dogs pad in and out,
nails clicking on century wood floors
Turkey dinner awaits its second birth in
odors of rich gravy, sage, onion and
apple pie

Outside, the firs drip rain
and ducks and chickadees keep company
The barn rises down the way, solid,
content in its fresh cut pine boards
awaiting the new calves soon to come

The farmhouse slumbers; sunk deep in the misty
gray of a persistent drizzle
Despite the rain, Christmas comes on in all its magic
and at the window someone stands
searching inscrutable skies for signs of snow

Judith Frost

SCRIPTURE CHRISTMAS CAKE

raisins	2 cups	chop dried fruit into similar sized pieces
figs	1 cup	cover with water and leave overnight
dates	1 cup	drain before using
dried apricots	1 cup	
flour	3 ½ cups	sieve together
baking powder	2 tsp	
salt	½ tsp	
mixed spice	½ tsp	
cinnamon	½ tsp	
brown sugar	2 cups	cream together
butter	1 cup	
olive oil	1 tbsp	
eggs	6	add one at a time; or beat together then add
honey	2 tbsp	add to beaten mixture
almond essence	½ tsp	
sherry	1 tbsp	
chopped nuts	½ cup	
diced apple	1 cup	

Add dry ingredients and fruit alternately, stir in last items; cook 3 hours at 140°C/284°F.

Scripture notes:

Honey, Nuts and Almonds—included in Jacob's gifts to the Governor of Egypt (Joseph). Genesis 43:11

Loaves, Wine, Raisins and Figs—included in Abigail's gifts to David. 1Samuel 25:18

Dates—'palms' mentioned throughout the Bible; common Mediterranean food. Judges 4:5

Spices—included in Queen of Sheba's gifts to Solomon. 1Kings 10:2

Cinnamon—specifically mentioned in Revelation 18:13

Butter—'curds from the herd' Deuteronomy 32:14

Olive—oil commonly used in cooking 1Kings 17:12 and for lamps Exodus 27:20

Sugar-cane—mentioned in Isaiah 43:24

Salt—'you are the salt of the earth…' Matthew 5:13

Baking powder—'…which is leavened' Amos 4:5

Eggs—'if he ask for an egg…' Luke 11:12

Apples—'refresh me with apples' Song of Solomon 2:5

Apricots—thought to be the 'apples of gold' mentioned in Proverbs 25:11

Rosalie Sugrue

Christmas Peace

Advent Worship Service 2004
Heather Chappell

Needed: 4 candles, matches or lighter.

Leader: Today, we come together for a time of peaceful reflection during this Advent season. Let us leave our busy lives at the door. Let us open our hearts to love. Let us close our eyes and breathe deeply. Shalom, my friends. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: Shalom!

Hymn #740, Make me a channel of your peace

Voice 1: A young couple, far from home. The woman in the pains of labour. Tired, afraid, in need of a place to stop and rest. But the doors were closed, one after another. There was no room for them that night, long ago. No room at any inn.

All: This Christmas let there be room in our hearts for joy, for hope, for love and for peace. Help us to open our hearts and our homes to those in need.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9: 6-7

Leader: Be at peace. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is born for us.

(Light first candle)

Voice 2: An ordinary night. Shepherds working in the fields, tending their flocks. Simple men, clothed in rough cloth. Perhaps some yawned and longed for bed. But they kept watch. And these simple men were chosen to see angels! They were chosen to witness the sign of God's promise.

All: This Christmas, help us to be ready and watchful. Help us to listen for the voices of angels, and to watch for signs of God's love in our daily lives.

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

Reader 1: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

Reader 2: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.

Reader 1: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Reader 2: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

Reader 1: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Leader: Be at peace. God, our shepherd, our protector, watches over us.

(Light second candle)

Voice 3: Others sought him too. Not just shepherds, but wise men. Rich men. Learned men. Men who travelled from distant lands to offer their gifts to the child who would be King of the Jews.

All: Though many in the world do not have riches to offer, we are all called to give what we have to God. So often we worry about our finances, and feel that we do not have enough to give. This Christmas, let us stop worrying and give joyfully. Let us give our hearts to the newly born Christ as offerings of our dedication and faith.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-34 (NRSV)

Leader: Be at peace. God, our Creator, asks that we stop worrying and put our trust in God.

(Light third candle)

Prayer:

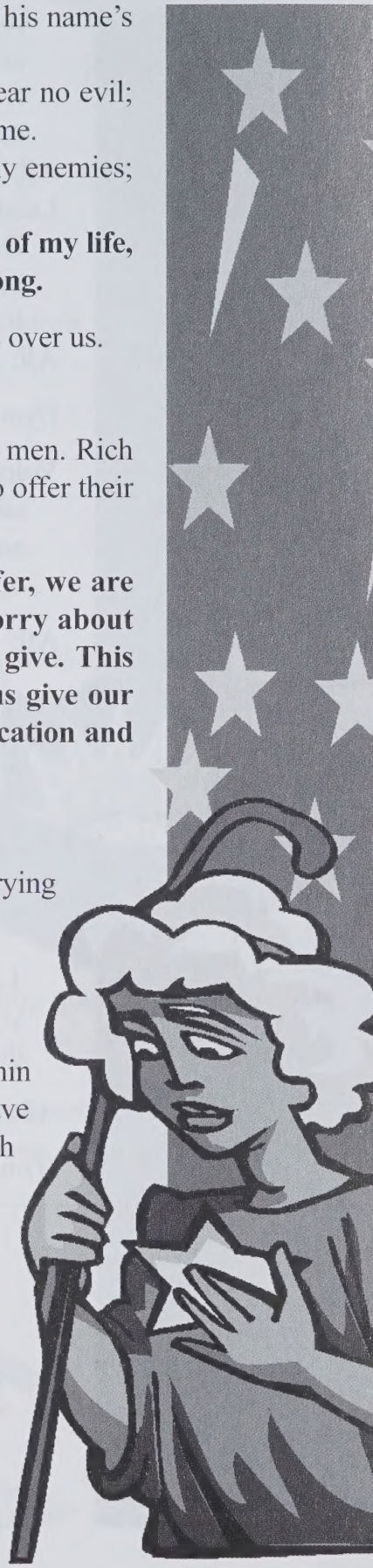
Leader: Forgiving God, we know that peace must begin within our own hearts. Help us to forgive those whom we feel have wronged us. Free us from the burden of wounded pride. Wash away our resentments and grudges.

All: Lord, bring us Christmas peace.

Leader: Healing God, there are many who are grieving and filled with sorrow during this Christmas season. Be with them, comfort them and bring them peace at a time when so many around them are busy with the joys of Christmas preparations and celebrations.

All: Lord, bring us Christmas peace.

Leader: Loving God, we come to you with troubled hearts. It is difficult for us to feel at peace when there is so much unrest



in the world. Each day we are bombarded with images of hate, anger, violence and war. Dear God, be with those who suffer from oppression, injustice and poverty. Guide those who lead the nations of this world, that they might rule with justice and wisdom.

All: Lord, bring us Christmas peace.

Leader: Gracious God, we are grateful for your presence with us. During this Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, help us carry the peace of Christ within our hearts. May it be reflected in all that we say and do.

All: Lord, help us bring Christmas peace to others. Amen.

Hymn #730: O for a world where everyone

Voice 4: In our consumer society, Christmas is so often about advertising, selling and greed. In malls packed with hurried people anxious to buy the perfect gift, it can be difficult to remain focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

All: As we draw near the manger, let us remember that the perfect gift is not something we can buy. Let us leave consumerism at the stable door and rejoice together in the miracle of birth.

Leader: Be at peace. Christ, the perfect gift, is born.

(Light 4th candle)

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: May God love you, may God protect you, may God give you peace. Now go out into the world in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Shalom!

All: Shalom!

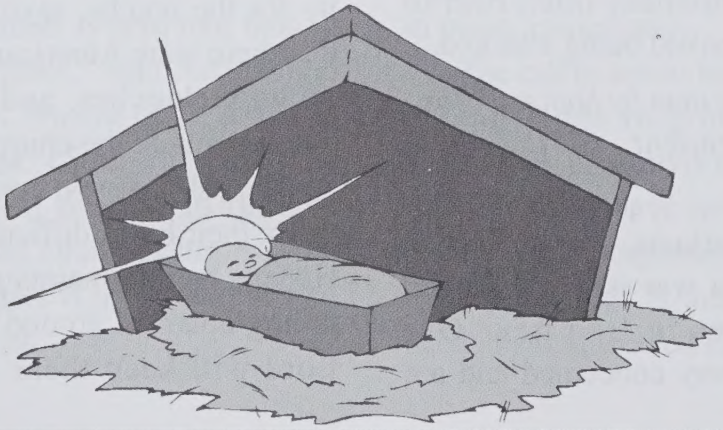
Hymn #731, Shalom chaverim

Heather Chappell is Program Assistant for Stewardship and Education for Mission at The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In her spare time she sings and performs Celtic music with The Woolgatherers and is currently recording a CD of her own songs. Heather is a member of Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Ontario.

Where is Christmas?

by Carolyn Wilker

"Where is Christmas?" a young child asked.
"Christmas," the old man answered, "is in your heart."
"When is it Christmas?"
"It's the time when we give gifts to people we love.
Like God giving Jesus to us as a gift of love."
The child pondered a moment and then he wanted to know
"Where did Jesus come?"
"Jesus came as a baby to a poor mother and father,
and he was born in Bethlehem."
"Where is Bethlehem? Is it far away?"
"Yes, very far away, and he was born a long time ago."
"Jesus was a baby, just like me?"
"Just like you, and he was probably just as small."
"What did he sleep in? Was it a bed like mine?"
More questions. The grandfather ran his fingers through his thinning hair.
"No," he replied, "there wasn't a bed left in the whole city."
The child looked worried, "What did he sleep in then?"
"In a manger, in a barn where animals sleep."
"I'd give him my bed, if he needed one."
"Yes, child, I know."
"He could play with my toys too, Grandpa!"
"Jesus would like that very much."
"When, Grandpa, can I let him play with my toys?"
The grandfather sighed, not sure how much his young grandson would understand.
"When?" asked the child.
"Any time of year, when you share your toys, when you smile to make someone happy. When you show your love to anyone, you're doing it for Jesus."



20 Christians Wounded in Terrorist Attacks against Churches

August 1, 2004

(Baghdad, Iraq) At least 20 Christians were wounded in Baghdad and Mosul in the largest terrorist attacks against churches ever, reports said Sunday, August 1. Reporters said the church attacks in Baghdad appeared to be car bombs.

The two blasts exploded just minutes apart outside two nearby churches one Armenian and one Catholic in the Karada neighbourhood. It was the same area where ASSIST News Service (ANS) investigated the plight of Christians last year, with Christian shopkeepers and church leaders expressing concern about the security situation.

"I am shocked and stunned because this is the very district where parents bring their children to baptize them," said Agnes R. Bos, of the Russian Service of the BBC World Service and Radio France International who accompanied ANS last year.

The attack was believed to be around the main Armenian Church, where parents sometimes postpone baptism services of newborns because of shootings and other violence. Christians often rush to church services to avoid being attacked.

Adapted from news item by Stefan J. Bos Special Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

Dear friends and partners,

It seems like a war is being waged against Christians in Iraq now. Our friends there are very concerned and are holding a one month fast for peace and safety. You may or may not know that many Iraqi Christians still keep the fast of Jonah to this day. They love their country and are faithful to it, but many are forced to leave in fear for the safety of their families. Life is becoming too dangerous there. Many are not employed and have no income.

They are our brothers and sisters, and they are in a tough situation. They are considered enemies by their fellow countrymen because they are Christian and they are considered enemies by the West because they are Arab. They are caught in the middle. An old African saying goes "when the elephants fight, the grass gets hurt" so they are the grass underneath the elephants feet.

It is God's grace that abides in such circumstances. Had the bombs [see article above "20 Christians Wounded"] gone off a few minutes later, the death toll and injuries would have been much higher since the congregations would have been out in the parking lots where the bombs were planted. Praise the Lord! An armed group has claimed responsibility for the bombs, saying they had word that there were American soldiers praying in those churches, and that has caused them to attack the churches.

We ask that you continue praying for them; their life is difficult to say the least. Hope is hard to maintain when things are falling apart all around us. Pray that the Lord will keep them encouraged and

faithful, and that the situation may somehow come out of this deadlock. Once again there is an urgent need for food and medicine. If you would like to support our efforts to help Christian families, please send your gifts through our partners.

May our Lord protect you and keep you out of harm's way. Thank you for your prayers and your friendship over these many years.

Blessings and Peace,

Isam Ghattas

Refugees and Sanctuary in Canada: The Churches Respond

August 4, 2004

(Toronto, ON) Canadian Church leaders responded today to the growing controversy created by Immigration Minister Judy's Sgro's recent public criticism of churches for offering sanctuary to refugees. The issue has attracted energetic and sustained public debate. Church leaders made their views known during a media conference held at the Church of the Holy Trinity—site of a sanctuary coalition in Toronto.

"The real problem we want to address today is not sanctuary, but the flawed refugee determination system that fails to protect some refugees," said Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. Citing the lack of a merit-based appeal process in refugee determination, the churches argued that protection of refugees is profoundly rooted in the Christian faith.

The Canadian churches have proposed concrete solutions to the problems giving rise to situations of sanctuary. The Immigrant and Refugee Protection Act of 2001, passed by parliament, included an appeal process that has never been implemented. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has criticized Canada's lack of an appeal process, stating that it is "a necessary element of international protection."

In addition, the churches are concerned about the negative image of refugees created by Sgro's comments that "The protection of our country and of Canadians has to be the Number 1 concern" of the Immigration Department. Tom Reilly, General Secretary of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted "To suggest that refugees are somehow dangerous, that they are a threat to security, foments an unacceptable prejudice against some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society."

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, a coalition that carries out social justice work on behalf of 11 major Christian churches and church-related organizations, announced a national action by its cross-Canada network calling for Canada's appeal process to be put in place immediately.

The call to action has already generated an enormous response, according to KAIROS Executive Director Mary Corkery. "We have never seen as immediate a public response to a call to action," Corkery stated. "Canadians believe we need to stop the need for sanctuary."

Reviews

The Life Writings of Mary Baker McQuesten: Victorian Matriarch
edited by Mary J. Anderson, Wilfrid Laurier University Press $55.00

It is a rare privilege for women in the Women's Missionary Society to be given a glimpse into the personal lives of the women who have given outstanding leadership in the WMS. This privilege is given to us in *The Life Writings of Mary Baker McQuesten*. Although Mary McQuesten was never national president of the WMS, she was deeply involved with the work at all levels. Mary was president of the MacNab Church WMS in Hamilton for 25 years and a Vice-President of the first Ontario provincial society. She travelled extensively for the WMS and was a popular and knowledgeable speaker. Included in the book is a selection from her Missionary Society addresses where she stresses the motivation for the missionary effort in strong biblical terms. Here are the closing words of one of her addresses:

> *Did it ever occur to you Christian women that the reason there is so much indifference & lethargy & deadness, utter stagnation in our churches...is because the Church has failed to obey Christ's commandments and has thus lost God's blessing. Mission work is not a department of Church work, but the heart and soul of Church work.* (p.47)

Mary Anderson traces the life of Mary Baker McQuesten beginning with her childhood days, then her marriage to Isaac McQuesten and the birth of their six children. Her husband's death at the age of 40 left the family destitute. Mary McQuesten's letters show the struggle she had raising and educating her children on her own and her heroic efforts to keep and maintain the McQuesten mansion.

Mary McQuesten's letters to her family take up by far the largest section of the book. 150 of her letters are printed in full and all are to her son Calvin, with the exception of a few which are to her son Tom. None of them are addressed to any of the four daughters. However, two of the daughters, Mary and Hilda, lived at home.

Mary McQuesten is portrayed as a strong, matriarchal woman with feminist leanings and leadership capabilities who more-or-less ordered her children's lives and prevented all of them from marrying. This is a harsh judgment on her character and, from reading her letters, I would say not altogether true.

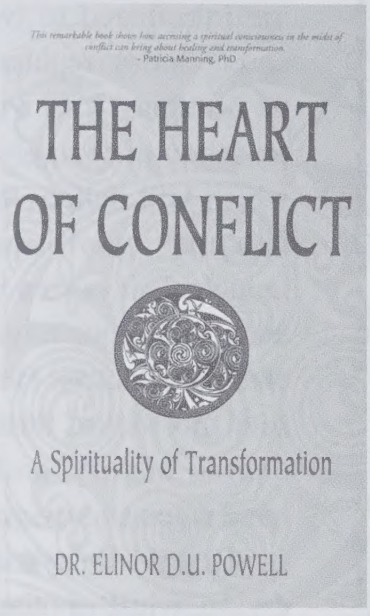
Tom became a lawyer and a prominent citizen in the city of Hamilton. The financial wherewithal for his education came from his mother and from his sister Ruby. Ruby's salary from teaching went to pay for his education. Ruby contracted tuberculosis, apparently from teaching in the cold, drafty ladies college in Ottawa and died when she was 34.

In 1959, the three remaining children prepared a bequest leaving the McQuesten mansion, Whitehern, to the Board of Parks Management of the City of Hamilton. You can visit Whitehern and

in the summer on a Wednesday afternoon, partake of tea in the garden. But first, read the book.

Lois Klempa

***The Heart of Conflict* by Dr. Elinor D.U. Powell, Northstone Publishing $36.00**


This remarkable book shows how accessing a spiritual consciousness in the midst of conflict can bring about healing and transformation.
- Patricia Manning, PhD
THE HEART OF CONFLICT
A Spirituality of Transformation
DR. ELINOR D.U. POWELL

I thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from reading *The Heart of Conflict* by Dr. Elinor D.U. Powell. I have always been told that I am more spiritual than religious and could not truly understand the difference until I read her book.

Throughout my life I have struggled with people, wanting to make them happy, needing them to like me and always seeming to fall short of succeeding in my relationships. I felt that *The Heart of Conflict* helped me to better understand why we are here and why we must continue to struggle with conflict so that we can make this world a place of tranquility and harmony. I was truly inspired and feel strongly that everyone will take some small part with them and leave with an understanding as to why they too need conflict to survive.

I wish to express what I learned categorically and at no time will admit to even scratching the surface of this very philosophical and spiritual book.

HOPE: Everything happens for a reason—facing our fears and preparing ourselves gives us hope. We all need this to survive and from this none of us is immune. Some of us face it all at one time, some sporadically throughout our journey, but either way we all have our time for turmoil and conflict. Although conflict is most frustrating, our life challenges will help us to recognize our strengths and weaknesses.

TRUST: Sometimes what seems a betrayal is someone's love for us—not to hurt us. We must look at the whole picture as to why people are not truthful to us. Could it be perhaps that our past reactions have forced them to do so? Removing layers as to why people influence us and realizing all that we question has a ripple effect, helps us to understand that our actions affect someone down the line. If we believe otherwise we have not truly grasped what life is all about.

I learned that spirituality and being analytical go hand in hand...I have analyzed situations forever and by reading *Conflict* realized that I need not fear my spiritual feelings. They, in fact, make me stronger with every situation and through my faith I am able to handle much more than I ever thought possible.

When we come to the realization that we cannot learn everything we become a person who contributes to the whole and not just to our own small circle of life. Group co-operation is essential for growth and although we sometimes balk at others and their ideas we would do ourselves so much justice by allowing participation from all.

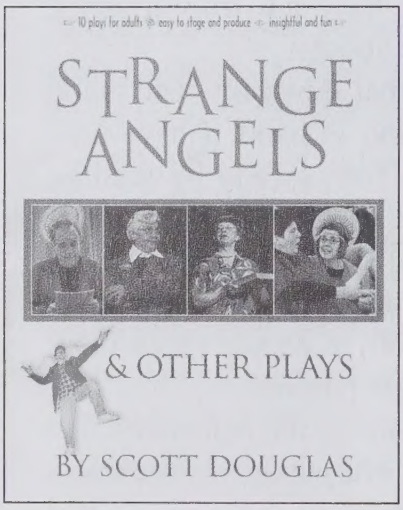
Positive people give you the strength, but avoidance and perceptions of us through others can make us feel unfulfilled. We must face all people to make

our lives whole. Although negativity can draw us into the vortex of disillusionment we need to research both sides of the coin to succeed.

I trust that by reading this book you will find a new self, a new beginning and the hope that we all need as the human race to survive. Throughout my reading I was drawn into the ebb and flow of our existence. Our religion, our culture, our belief, our hope is what sustains us all through these ever changing times. I feel that as humans we are at a crossroad and now is the time to transform our spirituality into goodness and hope.

Shelley M. Sampson

***Strange Angels & Other Plays* by Scott Douglas, Wood Lake Books $29.50**



People in years gone by were taught that the performing arts could not possibly be for the religious of mind. In Scott Douglas' book, *Strange Angels*, he dispels this myth as he takes us out of the church and into the homes of everyday people through his ten extraordinary plays. Douglas' work is ground-breaking for his effort to take the gospel out into the street as Peter and Paul did in the book of Acts.

Some of the characters he chooses to convey his message through are people like David, the kind benevolent King who ruled the nation of Israel with religious fervor.

Your imagination is sure to be captured by the true meaning of love as you are introduced to two simple fishermen and to Judas' replacement, the new apostle Matthias. You will also be introduced to other characters for the first time, which will delight the senses and fill the imagination with inspiration and hope. Douglas' plays step into the world of fallen heroes, poor migrant workers and our changing society. He also chronologically sets the record straight with our early church history, and the challenges we have faced and overcome.

Douglas' plays will leave us at times crying, while at other times rolling in the isle with laughter. People are sure to come away with a greater desire to do more to better our world. Douglas' plays reach right to the heart of the matter with every age, gender and culture. It is a fun loving journey which everyone will enjoy.

Isaiah the biblical prophet describes those who bring the love of God to others as having beautiful feet. Douglas has come with beautiful feet in the form of his narrative characters, and we applaud him for it.

Darlene Lajeunesse

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Readers Write

Dear Editor:

Several questions came to mind as I read the July/August 2004 issue:

- page 5 — Desmond Tutu is reported to have spoken in St. Paul's Cathedral, Toronto. I wonder if St. Paul's Anglican Church was meant?
- page 6 — Bernice Santor, of the United Church, is named as the author of a book entitled *Some Women Amazed Us*
- page 26 — Lois Klempa is co-author of *Certain Women Amazed Us: The Women's Missionary Society, Their Story, 1864-2002*

Such a pity if these two books have similar titles, especially as I and, I'm sure, many others are in the (sloppy) habit of referring to the latter by the first four words of its title.

Perhaps you can enlighten me.
Yours truly,
Ann McJanet

GT corresponded with June Stevenson regarding page 5 of the July/August issue and Ann is correct, Desmond Tutu spoke at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Bernice Santor is indeed the author of a book entitled *Some Women Amazed Us: Biblical Studies from a Christian Feminist Perspective*. Lois Klempa & Rosemary Doran are the authors of *Certain Women Amazed Us: The Women's Missionary Society, Their Story, 1864-2002*. Copies of both books are available at The Book Room.

Dear Editor,

"The W.M.S. Purpose," page 24 of the July/August 2004 *Glad Tidings*, by Helen Hoggarth, looks great.

However, Helen and her friends at New St. James Presbyterian Church, London, have ganged up on me and have asked if it would be possible to let everyone know in the *Glad Tidings* that Helen is a member of the New St. James WMS.

This song was set to music for their WMS and introduced and sung at the 2003 London Presbyterial.

Judith Heal
London Presbyterial WMS

Book Competition Winners!

Annette M. Ault
Woodstock, ON

Janice Barnes
Bracebridge, ON

Arlene Hamilton
Thunder Bay, ON

Mrs. Holland
Sooke, BC

Dorothy Stevens
Simcoe, ON

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who sent in postcards to *Glad Tidings* Fall Book Competition. Special thanks to Susan Clarke and The Book Room for donating 5 copies of *Like a Winter's Aspen* and mailing the winners their copies.

Mission in Action

Pauline Brown
Jobat, India

Pauline's prison visit
by Marjorie Ross

On June 23, Pauline Brown, on leave from India, visited church office and brought the message to the regular staff worship service. Following the service she agreed to retell this story on tape so that it could be shared with a wider audience. The story of the visit to the prison is in Pauline's own words. Even so, the words may not convey to the reader the impact that they had when we heard them in person. Pauline relives the wonderful spiritual experience each time she tells the story. Her voice and her face show how much she and the others were moved that day, and how strongly they felt God's presence.

On Easter Sunday afternoon a group of us from the Jobat congregation, six or eight of the men (including the pastors) and four of us women, got permission to go to visit the men who remain in prison in Alirajpur. And so we went, and we took with us fruit, because although you can't feed the prisoners, they can accept fruit...We were to be there from 3:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon —we had one hour. So the jailer met us at the door and we were frisked, and he took us into a room. We thought we were going to be meeting with the 12 Christian prisoners, but instead the whole jail, 178 prisoners, was there. The jailer had called them all, which was a bit of a surprise.

Anyway, the Christian "jailees" (the ones who were in jail) had drums and flutes and a couple of other musical instruments. They were playing and singing their Bhili hymns, written by the Bhils themselves. And they were happy; they were really drumming and singing to their heart's content, they were so happy. And then the messages were given by two of the pastors and one of the women, and after that the jailer spoke and told us that if we wanted to come again, any time we wanted, we were welcome. That was terrific!

Well then, they were going to hand out the fruit, and I thought, oh my goodness! How are we going to spread fruit for 12 to 178? But the loaves and fishes were repeated, and there were even enough plates, big plates like dinner plates, and everybody got a plate and everybody got a plate full of fruit! Now can you figure out how that was done? I really mean it! I don't know how they did it. But anyway, they all got enough, and it was a miracle!

And then, when we were leaving (you should know that now I am one of the oldest women in the community, and so I have certain rights, just because of my age) I blessed our Christian young men, and put a cross on their foreheads. Some of the other prisoners came with folded hands and said, "Please give us also a blessing," which was very touching. And then, some of the police came with folded hands and they had tears in their eyes, and said, "Will you please give us

the blessing?" I was very touched, but I had never been in this situation before, and I didn't know how to handle it. Anyway, I said the Lord was blessing them, because we had all had a blessed time. So they too received the blessing.

Then, when we went out, the jailer said, "Please come to my house." So we all trekked over to his house, where we met his wife and their two sons. The oldest son, about 22 years old was lying on the floor on a mattress, obviously very ill. The jailer said that they had taken him (to doctors) all over, and they were told it was some problem with his brain which has left him in a semi-comatose condition for over a year. The jailer said, "Please pray for my son," and so we did, and we had a nice time with the family. When we left the head-jailer's house, the sub-jailer said, "Now you come to my house." So we had to go to his house where he gave us some snacks and mango juice etc. and we had a good visit with him.

It was all such a blessed time. We said to them that we had thought we would come to give our men support, but actually they gave us so much. Through them, the Lord really blessed us all so much. And our Christian men, yes they're still in jail, and yes some were crying, but they're all right. They are very, very strong. And, really, our church in Canada can thank God for them...

The day before I was leaving to come on furlough, one of my colleagues came with a banner about 3 feet long, made by the men in prison, and it's gorgeous. I hope the picture of it will be sent around, and if you come to church offices you can see it. The banner is made with all kinds of colour; it's so colourful, with all different pompoms. They have written in Hindi script (in embroidery) "From the jailbirds in Alirajpur." They are saying "In the love of God, through the leadership of Christ, we are learning the patience of the Cross in prison." My colleague told me, "The men have sent this, and they say that you are to take it to the church in Canada to thank them and to show them how grateful they are for your love and prayers and support."

When people see it, they comment on what a joyous piece of work it is, with all the colours, and the butterflies and flowers. It's worked so nicely, and is a tremendous amount of work—it must have taken them weeks of work! This beautiful banner is a demonstration of

God's Grace to His people, isn't it? Through His Holy Spirit. It couldn't be any other way; it's by His Grace! We are richly blessed, aren't we?

When Pauline finished, I said that when she described the Christian men singing in the prison, and then the visit to the jailer's house, I was reminded of the story of Paul and Silas in Acts (Acts: 16). Pauline reached over and took my arm. "But that's exactly it," she said. "At the time when it was happening, we were looking at each other and saying, 'It feels as if we were in the middle of Acts!'" Clearly, they all received a special Easter blessing through that visit to the prison.

Stephanie McDonald
Nicaragua
Youth Discovery Tour

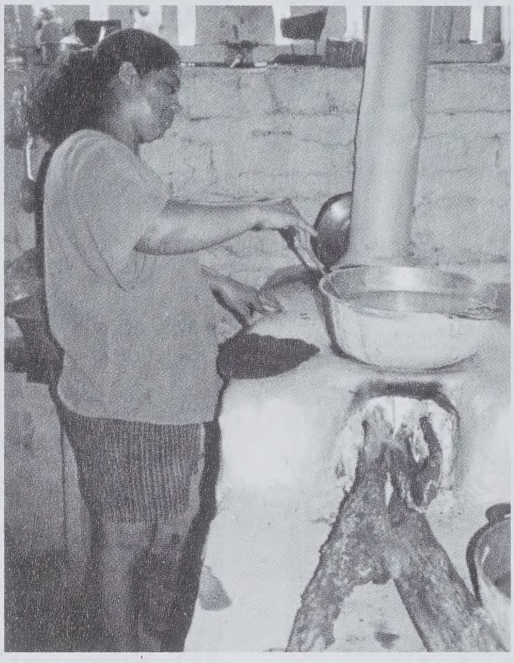
On a recent youth food discovery tour with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to Honduras and Nicaragua, I often felt that despair would be my lasting memory of the trip; the challenges these two countries face appeared monumental. What was able to transform my views and give me hope was a three-day stay with a family in the northern Nicaraguan town of Salamanca.

Our first introduction to the women of Salamanca was as guests to a meeting-in-progress. Several women were sprawled on the floor of my host mother's barren living room drawing on large pieces of paper. The left side of the paper was for each woman's garden as it was; the right side for a picture of what they would like to see in their gardens. All of the women envisioned a greater variety and number of plants and trees in their already fruitful gardens. From the first hours of meeting the women of Salamanca it was obvious that hope and optimism abounded in a region and country, which by all considerations, should be hopeless.

Stephanie McDonald and her host family

All of the women we met had survived war in the 1980's; Hurricane Mitch had left devastation in its path as it stormed through in 1998, and the possibility of tropical storms is a constant threat. At a local level, the community of Salamanca had gone without running water for two years, and at the time of our visit was still without electricity, four years after the village was built. This, despite the fact that electrical wiring, light switches and even light bulbs were in place! (At the time of writing, news was received that electricity was finally coming). Additionally, the women had to care for their families, homes and gardens by themselves, as most of the men from the village were forced to seek employment elsewhere. And still, there is hope.

One cause for this optimism is the dedicated work of the non-profit organization SOYNICA, whose primary goal is food security. SOYNICA promotes diversification in food production and consumption, provides seeds and gardening advice, and encourages habits of good hygiene and nutrition. The philosophy of the organization is to work with children and to stay working with families for a long period of time so that the practices they teach become habit. A message and organization that has never been needed more: globalization has made non-nutritious food available and popular.



A woman from Salamanca preparing a drink

SOYNICA works with fifteen families in the village of Salamanca, a community that is only four years old. After Hurricane Mitch swept through the region, a Spanish organization built the houses in the community, each one identical with three rooms. The current residents were formerly living in surrounding communities, most as renters or living with relatives.

It is quickly apparent which families work with SOYNICA, each boasting a plentiful garden. My host mother Hilda, proudly walked us around her garden, pointing out sugar cane, pineapple, mangoes, papaya and many other tropical plants that I had never even heard of. With the produce from her garden she is able to provide almost all of her family's food needs: an incredible achievement in a community that is so young.

We spent a day with many of the village women preparing a stew, papaya treats, and pickled vegetables. Pickling is a new initiative of SOYNICA, enabling the women to create a product that can be sold in local markets. This is perhaps the ultimate achievement in attaining food security: having excess produce that they are able to sell.

As I spent the day chopping vegetables, communicating with my minimal Spanish, and often just sitting and observing, I realized the importance of the social aspect of food amongst the women. Each woman had provided vegetables from her garden, and all of them were working together to prepare food and products to be sold in a local market.

After three days of eating, playing, and working with the women of Salamanca my despair for the people of Honduras and Nicaragua faded away. As I watched eleven-year old Maybelline water the garden and work with her mother Hilda in caring for the plants each night, I felt that the work of SOYNICA was a success. Food security was being achieved and was sure to continue as a new generation came to be food producers. Like the gardens of the village, hope grows in Salamanca.

Presbyterian World Service & Development and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank are supporting SOYNICA's food security program in northern Nicaragua. With the support of *Presbyterians Sharing*... Canadian Presbyterian Denise van Wissen is working as a nutritionist on the project.

Joe Reed
Nicaragua

Beyond Partnership

We presently undertake mission using a partnership model, an attempt to move beyond paternal condescension in which donor churches dictate the terms of relationship. In a time of increasingly constrained budgets (but not just for those financial reasons) churches here in the North, the spiritual Third World, and our spiritually wealthy Southern partners have entered a variety of agreements and relationships.

In theory, this is a very good thing. Representatives of partner organizations in India, Africa, and Central America have long enriched PWS&D committee meetings and generously offered their wealth of experience, witness and insight. The whole of the Church, not just the PCC, has benefited.

But partnership as a model of mission has begun to irritate. Not because the idea is a bad one: quite the contrary. Rather because the disparity in the relationship, and especially in the economic relationship, poisons the equality which the term and the concept imply. What we have is not so much an equal partnership as a dysfunctional marriage in which one partner, the moneyed one, the one who *pays the piper* calls the tune.

Overseas Staff Birthdays

February
21 - Bill McKelvie, Pakistan
March
9 - Rebecca Sherbino, Malawi
12 - Ling Schwarz, Nepal
21 - Joel Sherbino, Malawi
31 - Michael Tai, Taiwan

When first introduced in the 1970's, the term partnership promised a new beginning and over the past generation it has served us well. Mission personnel struggled to find a new term to embody a renewed affirmation of equality and of respect for flourishing new churches—flourishing both numerically and spiritually.

We long for the day when churches and other agencies in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and elsewhere ask us in North America and Europe the same tough questions about our goals, beliefs, and priorities that we routinely ask of them.

One Latin American visitor startled a Canadian congregation when she looked out over our mostly older faces and asked, quite honestly and spontaneously, an obvious question: "Don't Canadians *like* children? Why are there so few of them here? For that matter, I don't see them much outside the church either."

Of course, real partnership enriches us all, but how to get there especially in a world of diminished and diminishing resources. Perhaps what we need is not so much a new buzz word as a recommitment to the one we have, and a

recommitment to what I believe is one of the most eloquent expressions in our own *Living Faith* (9.2.1):

> We should not address others in a spirit of arrogance implying that we are better than they.
>
> But rather, in the spirit of humility, as beggars telling others where food is to be found, we point to life in Christ.

Denise van Wissen
Ocotal, Nicaragua

August 2004

Dear Friends in Canada,

Here in Nicaragua the rainy season started out promising this year; the first month or so was nice and wet, everything flourished and got lush and green again, and farmers planted their staple crops of corn and beans. However, by July the rains tapered off, the mud dried up, and not long after, the crops began to dry up too. The farming families with whom SOYNICA works are worried, but they hold out hope that the second planting season of the year (starting in September) will be blessed with more rain. The lack of harvest, though, means that they don't have any seed for the next planting, so they'll have to buy it at high prices from the few who did manage to harvest, or rely on donations from non-governmental organizations.

For the second consecutive year, my colleague Azucena and I formed part of the planning committee for the regional ECHO Agricultural Conference. This Conference is modeled after the annual ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) Conference, held in Florida, at their experimental farm.

Our three-day event was again a success; we had 60 participants representing 19 different organizations and four Central American countries (Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala). From SOYNICA three of our field staff attended, accompanied by 3 farmers (2 women and 1 man). There was great interest in both our green leaf extract workshops, and the participative presentation I gave on basic nutrition.

Back in May, I accompanied the Youth in Mission (YIM) group for much of their time here in Nicaragua. The young people brought energy and enthusiasm and were eager to interact with Nicaraguan youth, children and families. For their 'hands-on' experience of daily life, SOYNICA had the young people stay with rural families. For both the host families and the young Canadians, it was an interesting, new experience.

Being with the YIM team brought back many memories of my very first visit to Nicaragua with the YIM delegation of 1991. It's great that such a unique opportunity exists for youth.

As I write, my dog, Kampura, is stretched out under the table, snoozing. She's all tired out after chasing a couple of piglets that we came across on our morning run. I suspect that after that traumatic experience, they won't be too eager to sneak out of their pen again soon!

Please remember Central America in your prayers, and in particular, the continued political instability here in Nicaragua, as we move towards municipal elections in November.

Peace,

Denise

Report from the Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada May 27 - June 1, 2004

The 111th annual general meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) was held this year in Edmonton, Alberta. We were housed in the new Lister Convention Centre, part of the University of Alberta, and certainly university accommodation has greatly improved since I was at university in the mid-fifties. The Edmonton committee made us most welcome and it will be a hard act to follow next year in Montreal (my local council being the host committee).

Since the council is a volunteer organization and receives no funding other than from its members, the cost of attending the AGM is a very important factor in arranging the accommodation. Many of the women who attend receive little or no financial help and their dedication to the work of the council is laudable. Also, like many volunteer organizations there is a lack of younger women who have the time and interest to be part of this 111 year old advocacy group addressing the issues which affect women and their families. The brief which is presented each year to the federal government has, over the more than 100 years, resulted in many changes in the laws governing and protecting the lives of women and their families and indeed, of society in general in Canada. Some of these changes may have taken years to happen and the NCWC may only have been one of the groups requesting the change but—changes do happen. Some historical examples include pasteurized or sterilized milk, free milk programs in schools, formation of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), supervised play areas in parks, while more recent ones are the ban on smoking in public places, and the ban on the testing of low-frequency sonar systems. The many affiliated organizations, including the WMS, represent a significant cross-section of grassroots opinion. These opinions lead to the development of policy through a democratic resolution process and these resolutions are then discussed and approved or rejected at each AGM.

This year the resolutions addressed a wide variety of issues: criminalization of date-rape drugs; restriction of trans fatty acids in foods and mandatory labelling; prevention of abuse of women and female children in polygamous communities (this one was particularly interesting since one of the delegates was herself an escapee from a polygamous community); and the resolution on rights to marriage. This last resolution had been brought to the 2003 meeting as an emerging issue but was sent back for further study and rewording. Also, the delegates last year, myself included, stated that they were not prepared to vote hurriedly on this issue. I brought this to the WMS council in early May and, as a result of the serious

discussions there, was not able to vote to pass this resolution in view of the fact that the word "marriage" was retained in the wording of the resolution. The final resolution, which was passed, was titled Rights to Same Sex Marriage and endorsed a policy of civil rights to same sex marriage. The negative vote of the WMS, as well as that of another organization, was recorded and when the brief goes to the government later in the year our named negative vote will be included. If anyone would like the full text of what was adopted I would be pleased to supply it.

Yet another emerging issue this year was presented: Protecting the Rights of Women and Children in Family Law. This was precipitated by the proposal in certain provinces that Sharia Law be adopted in dealing with family law cases. This would mean that in certain Muslim communities under Sharia law, binding arbitration would rule on such matters as dissolving marriage, ownership of property, spousal maintenance, child custody and child support. Such binding arbitration would undermine the rights of women and children as they presently exist under federal and provincial laws. The resolution was passed and council adopted the policy that "equality for women, embedded in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms be respected in Family Law."

As I have said before in my previous reports, it is important that the WMS keeps its connection to the NCWC. The voice of Christian women is too seldom heard within the context of government and its policies and I welcome the opportunity that the Society gives me to bring a Christian perspective to the deliberations at council.

Once again I must thank the WMS and the council for giving me the opportunity to represent the Society and to participate in the work of the National Council of Women. It is work which I enjoy and in which I believe. Never doubt the power of "one" when there is a network of "ones."

Druse Bryan

We need photos to print in *Glad Tidings*. Send in good, clear photos of your mission related work; include names of people, groups and any other relevant details to:

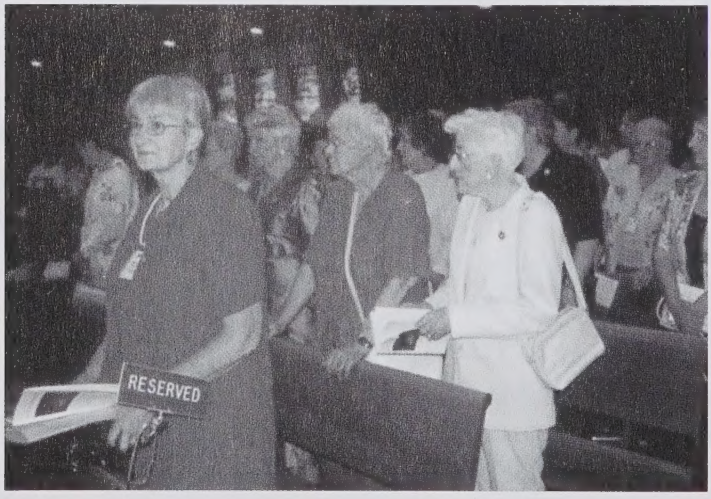
Glad Tidings
Women's Missionary Society
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope if you require the photos back.
OR e-mail labeled, high resolution (300 dpi) photos to hwilson@presbyterian.ca. You will be notified if your photo is considered for the cover of *Glad Tidings*; we offer an honorarium on publication. Please note that vertical photographs are best for the cover.

President Attends National CWL Convention in London, Ontario

Margaret McGillivray was honoured to represent the WMS at the Catholic Women's League (CWL) national convention held in London, Ontario August 8-11. Marie Cameron, CWL president, opened the meetings and welcomed 650 women from across Canada. The CWL has over 107,000 members from coast to coast. Margaret attended mass at St. Michael's Cathedral and St. Peter's Basilica, and the closing banquet as a guest of the CWL.

In Margaret's address to the CWL she stressed the need that we as Christians must have interfaith dialogue with one another, if not, how do we hope to have any kind of understanding and compassion for other faiths in our world? In her remarks to the conference she told about the work of the WMS women, especially in regard to the pneumonia prevention vests. What a mission! The CWL women had never heard of these vests; fortunately Margaret had several copies of the *Glad Tidings* with her and was able to take e-mail and home addresses in response to the huge interest in these toques and vests.



Margaret attended their resolution committee meetings and business sessions and was told that their four days of worship, singing, etc., with the theme "Cast Out Into the Deep," can be shared with the women in the Presbyterian Church. It was a marvelous opportunity to touch base with these women and to share stories.

Job Opportunity

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www.synodabnw.ca

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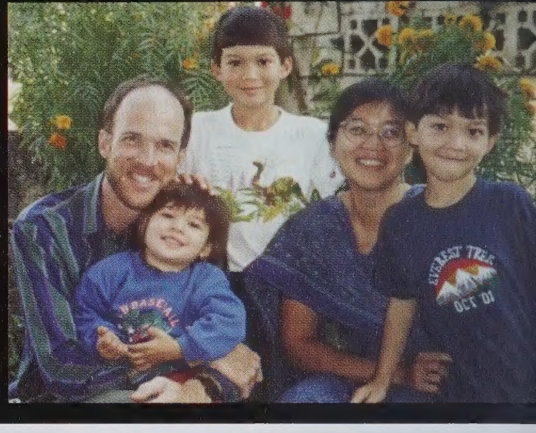

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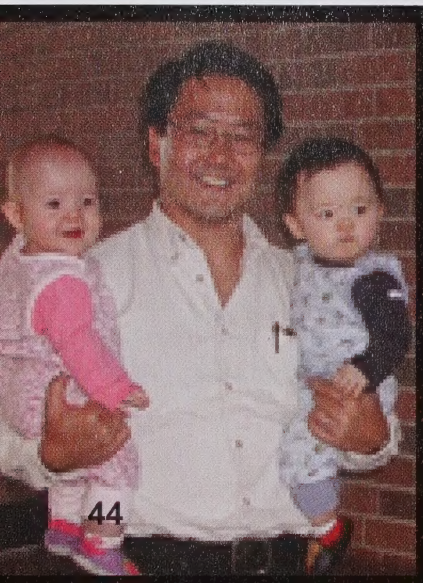

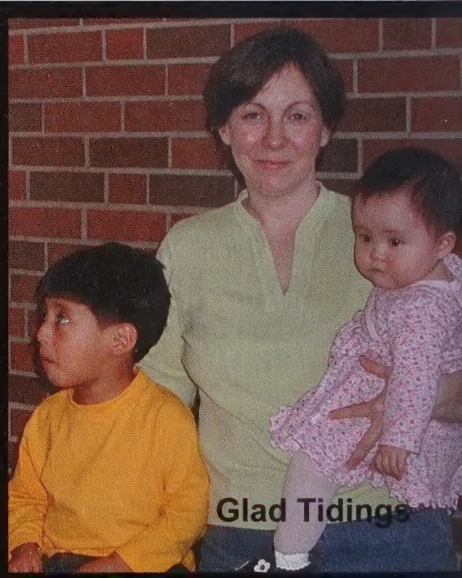

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Administrative Assistant & Circulation, Glad Tidings - Katherine Allen
Financial Officer (part-time) - Mary Taylor

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Have you renewed your subscription to the *Glad Tidings* magazine? Has your group returned the *Glad Tidings* list of subscribers? It is helpful to receive the lists by the deadline date of November 1 to ensure that any additions/changes/deletions have been adjusted for the January/February issue.

If your group has disbanded, please make sure you return to the office the list of subscribers which we mailed to the *Glad Tidings*/contact person in August. We need this information in order to make the appropriate adjustment.

Promotion of the magazine is on-going throughout the year. Perhaps as a Christmas gift, you might consider a subscription to the *Glad Tidings* magazine. For only $12.00 a year, a friend, relative or someone new in the congregation can enjoy reading inspirational articles, poems, letters from missionaries and highlights of the work of the WMS.

Promotion can be done in several ways. This might include giving a year's subscription to a shut-in, place a copy in the church library, or include a copy of the magazine with the church bulletin along with a subscription form.

The magazine is also available in large print and audio-cassette tape for those who have difficulty reading the regular sized print.

To My Loved Ones

Don't cry when I'm gone dears,
I shan't be very far.
You'll hear me sighing in the wind
See me in a star.

Don't wish me back again dears,
For I have loved you long.
When you are lonely for my voice,
Listen to sweet birds song.

Don't fill your days with sorrow
I would not wish it so.
Carry on where I left off,
I'm sure that I will know.

Be kind to little children
And aged people too,
I'm sure you'll see me smiling
From out of skies of blue.

Don't cry because of death dears,
Tis but a little door—
That leads into your hearts dears,
Where I'll be forevermore.

Gladys Nolan

Gladys passed away on August 29, 2004. She was 95 years old.

Hanna Czuma and Gladys Nolan

Women's Missionary Society

Life Membership Certificates and Pins

Certificates

In Memoriam Certificate $25.00
Life Membership Certificate $50.00
Honorary Certificate $100.00
Recognition Certificate Adult $25.00, Youth $25.00, Children $10.00

Pins & Charms

Gold Filled Membership Pin $55.00 (includes GST & postage)
Gold Filled Honorary Pin $90.00 (includes GST & postage)
Certificate of Recognition Pin/Charm $26.75 (includes GST & postage)

Life Membership, Honorary, In Memoriam and Recognition Certificates are available from the Presbyterial Treasurers. The pins can be ordered from the WMS office attention Katherine Allen.

Date

Margaret McGillivray
President

IN REMEMBRANCE

Irene Shultz
Knox, Belgrave, ON

Mrs. Flora Bryce
St. Paul's, Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Jean Zemelis
St. Paul's, Hamilton, ON

Mildred Helena-Randall
Knox, Midland, ON

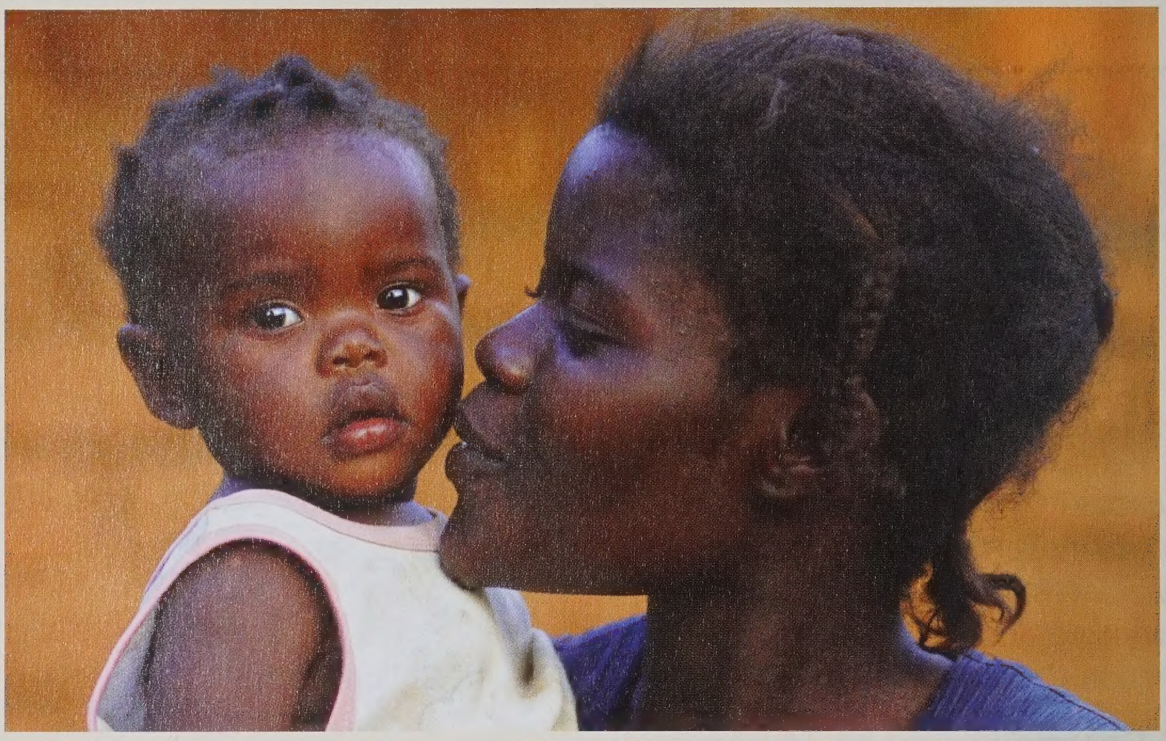
Mildred Kathleen Rees
Chippawa, Niagara Falls, ON

Miss Agnes Elliott
Knox, St. Catharines, ON

Jane (Jean) Roddy
Knox, St. Catharines, ON

Mrs. Christina McKinnon
Knox, Vankleek Hill, ON

photo: Carl Hiebert, PWS&D



Give the Gift of Hope

Presbyterian World Service & Development's emergency relief and community development programs provide hope to people in the face of catastrophic disasters and unimaginable poverty. This Christmas, give the gift of hope by making a donation to support education, health, agriculture, income generation, and emergency programs. When you give a gift in the name of a friend or relative, PWS&D will send them a **Gift of Hope** card in your name.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

50 Wynford Dr. Toronto ON M3C 1J7
tel: 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
pwsd@presbyterian.ca www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/

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